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Civic opening for new E Rooms

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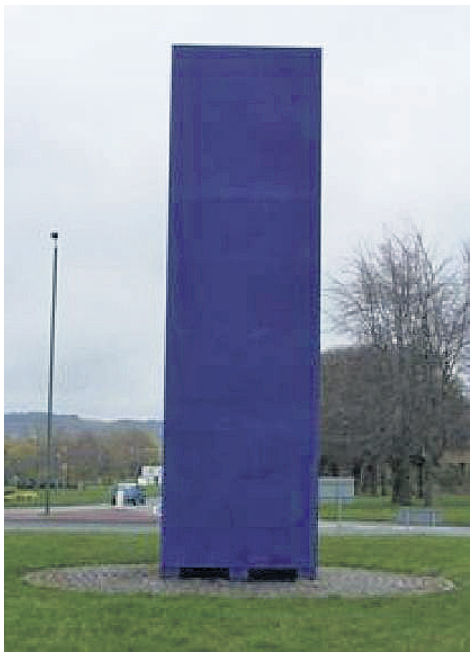
Cube set to shine



ONE of West Lancashire's best-known landmarks, the Lightcube *(pictured)*, will be lit up in red and blue to mark World Down Syndrome Day on Monday, March 21.

The Lightcube, on Exchange Island in Skelmersdale, is a stainless steel structure, seven metres high, with the top two metres covered with fibre-optic lights controlled by a computer.

West Lancs Council can, by agreement, arrange for the lights to change colour to mark special days.

The council decided to arrange the special light display in response to a request from Skelmersdale mother-of-three Mrs Gillian Haworth, whose youngest son, three-year-old Tom, has Down's Syndrome.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "The Lightcube is one of our borough's most distinctive landmarks and I'll be delighted to see it shining red and blue to mark World Down Syndrome Day, as this is a cause which is close to the hearts of many in West Lancashire."

SKEM TRIO JAILED FOR PART IN £5M DRUGS GANG PLOT

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A £5million drugs gang used "apparently harmless" middle-aged people driving cars and caravans to try and avoid police attention, a court has heard.

Thirteen people, including three from Skelmersdale, involved in cocaine and amphetamine plots, have been jailed for more than 60 years.

Jailing the men, Judge Alan Conrad, QC, said the gang's three conspiracies were "marked by their professionalism and careful organisation."

Legitimate businesses were used as cover. Taxis were used. Vans were acquired and liveried to appear legitimate. Cars and caravans were used - driven by apparently harmless middle-aged people in order to avoid attention.

"As and when drugs were seized this was treated simply as a risk of the enterprise and the operation continued, with the methods used changing."

Liverpool Crown Court heard that the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (Titan) investigated the gang's activities between February 2014 and June 2015 as part of Operation Pitscale.

Simon Berkson, prosecuting, said 47-year-old Paul Berry - who co-owned an Internet tickets and events company in Manchester - was the ringleader.

Berry's "right-hand man" Stephen Reeves, 48, used his furniture business Skemersdale Furnishings as a cover to transport drugs.

Kenneth Pritchard, 67, used his BMW to "transport box loads of drugs" and allowed his caravan, kept in a timber yard in Burscough, to be used to store cocaine.

Dean Stephen, 36, was provided with a van "disguised with a false logo" to transport significant amounts of drugs, which he also stored at his home.

The court heard Lee Tarry, 33, was stopped by police travelling from Skelmersdale to Glasgow in a taxi on February 14, 2014. Hidden inside a bed - identical to those sold by Reeves' furniture firm - was 3kg of 60 to 70% pure cocaine, valued at £720,000.

On June 16, 2014, a dog walker found 45kg of amphetamine, valued at up to £900,000, in rural Meadow Lane, Ormskirk.

Peter Linford, 58, had hired a van, collected the haul and "stashed it in a hedge overnight", but was caught when he returned to collect the drugs.

Reeves and Linford also disguised a Ford Connect van with the logo 'Auto Valet Direct' before it was given to Stephen. Officers seized 51kg of amphetamine from this van and Stephen's home, valued at £514,000, on October 9.

Police stopped drugs courier Warren Bennett, 36, who was driving a tipper truck in Litherland, on December 8. They asked him to move a heavy bag, which he initially said contained tools.

The bag was found to contain 46kg of amphetamine, valued at up to £456,000.

Pritchard was stopped in his BMW X5 on February 12, 2015 by police who had been observing him for months. Officers recovered 68kg of amphetamine from the car and 2kg of "import quality" cocaine - secreted in a void in a cupboard - from his caravan.

On March 7 they caught Darren Highfield, 44, transporting 18kg of amphetamine to Sheffield to the homes of Dimitri Wright, 40, and Ryan Vintin, 38.

The court heard that on April 21, 227g of 83% pure cocaine was found in a car containing Stephen Higgs, 32, Michael Kearns, 43 and Anoushka

Continued inside

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Lottery officials 'going for gold' in bid to trace 'missing' millionaire

NATIONAL Lottery officials are stepping up their efforts to track down the holder of a Lotto Millionaire Raffle ticket bought in the West Lancashire or Southport area last November.

A gold Aston Martin will be driven around the area tomorrow (Thursday, March 17) in a bid to jog the memories of residents who could be sitting on a fortune.

The ticket, with code LIME 8233 8540, was drawn out in the special Lotto draw on Saturday, November 21 when 10 raffle prizes of £1 million each were up for grabs.

To date, no-one has come forward to claim the prize and the National Lottery is 'speeding up' its search for the missing Lotto millionaire.

The gold sports car will set off from Burscough Wharf at 1pm.

The winner only has until May 19 to claim their prize.

If it is still unclaimed on that date, the £1 million, plus all the interest generated, will go to help National Lottery-funded projects across the UK.

Awards recognition for top apprentices

THE top apprentices in West Lancashire have been recognised at an awards ceremony.

Members of the private, public and community sectors attended the Let's Talk Apprenticeship Awards and business growth breakfast at West Tower, Aughton organised by West Lancs Council.

Guest speaker, Joycelyn Neve, founder of the Seafood Pub Company, talked about the importance of apprentices to the company before the awards were introduced and presented by Councillor Frank McKenna, the council's economic development champion.

The Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award was won by Rhys Aspinall from SCA Hygiene Products Ltd, with Roisin Sweeney from Face for Business and Nicola Glover from Mellors Catering Services Ltd. highly commended.

Jack Baybutt from The Cashroom Ltd. won Intermediate Apprentice of the Year Award, while Portia Taylor-Black from West Lancs Council, Corey Leith from Timber Packaging Solutions Ltd. and Kirsty Shire from Portico Nursery Group were all highly commended.

SCA hygiene Products Ltd. won the Large Employer of the Year Award, while Face for Business won SME Employer of the Year Award. The Cashroom Ltd., Timber Packaging Solutions Ltd. and Trak Rap Ltd. were all highly commended.

Councillor McKenna said: "Congratulations to all the companies and apprentices who won awards. I'm pleased to say that this year saw a record amount of applications and standards were extremely high and I hope that this will be repeated in future years."

Sara Parker, marketing manager at Face for Business, added: "We are beyond thrilled with our awards. We're strong advocates of apprenticeship schemes and this proves if you match the right person with the right employer, you will reap the benefits."

Successful apprentices and their employers with Councillor Frank McKenna

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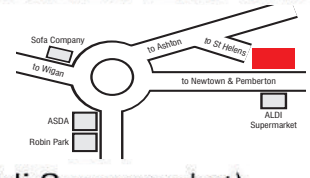

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Pensioners set to miss out on solar panel benefits

Report by **Henry James**

PENSIONERS in bungalows in Clayton Street, Skelmersdale who were looking forward to the benefits of having solar panels fitted to their properties, had their hopes dashed when West Lancs Council told them that overhanging trees would prevent them from having them.

Betty Howard, 76, said council workmen had come to the properties to do the measurements for the panels and residents were told they were next in line.

But recently she has received a letter from the council to tell her the properties would not be getting the panels because of a shading issues caused by trees, which she believes are owned by H. Hardman and Co. Ltd. funeral directors, based on Witham Road.

Mrs Howard said: "There are about 17 bungalows on Clayton Street and we were all promised solar panels.

"Now we are told we can't have solar panels because of the trees blocking the light and that there are shading issues from them.

"But we were promised that we could have them and people are disappointed.

"Council workers had been to the house to measure up. We were told we were next in line to get them. I feel let down by this. We should be able to have the panels.

Betty Howard and her letter from the council explaining why she can't have solar panels installed

Savings

"I know people who have had the panels installed and their electricity bills have gone down dramatically. Friends told me their electricity bills over the winter were only £7.

"We really want the panels – it would help us save money. The savings we could make from having the panels would be useful as some of my neighbours struggle with their pensions."

A borough council spokesman responded: "Solar panels have been installed on 588 council homes as part of a £1.922 million investment scheme. This could help tenants save between £50 and £200 per year on their electricity bills.

"Mrs Howard and other tenants approached about the project were informed when the council first wrote to them about the process their home would have to go through to be accepted onto the scheme.

"Mrs Howard, like the others, was initially offered solar panels for her home based on an aerial survey. This was, however, subject to a further detailed solar survey being carried out.

"Unfortunately, following the detailed solar survey Mrs Howard's home did not meet our requirements for the installation to proceed as the south-facing roof slope of the property was heavily shaded by trees on private land at the rear of the property.

"Council officers and Councillor Ian Moran, the leader of West Lancashire Borough Council, contacted the landowners concerned in an attempt to get the tree height reduced.

"However no agreement could be reached. The shade from the trees would have significantly restricted the amount of electricity generated, meaning the investment would have been of little benefit to the tenant and financially unviable for the council.

"So unfortunately Mrs Howard's property and others on her block had to be removed from the programme.

"The council regrets any disappointment caused to any tenants whose property was found unsuitable at solar survey stage but such circumstances were beyond our control."

A spokesperson for H. Hardman and Co. Ltd declined to comment on the issue.

Trio jailed for part in £5m drug gang plot

continued from Page 1

Lindsay, 40, on the M6.

The gang all pleaded guilty to their involvement in respective conspiracies, with Berry and Reeves admitting all three charges.

Berry, of Preston, who was on licence for a previous cocaine plot, was jailed for 11 years.

Reeves, of Charnock, Skelmersdale, who had no previous convictions, was jailed for nine years. Tarry, of Cherrycroft, Skelmersdale was jailed for five years.

Stephen, of Egerton, Skelmersdale, was given 12 months to run consecutively to a three-year sentence he is currently serving.

Linford, of Edge Hill, was sentenced to four-and-a-half years.

Pritchard, of Manor Crescent, Burscough, and Kearns, of Huyton, were both jailed for five years and four months.

Wright and Vintin, both of Sheffield, were jailed for three years and eight months and three years and four months respectively. Higgs, of Walton, was jailed for three years.

Bennett, of no fixed abode but from Preston, had one month added to an existing three year and four months term.

Couriers Martin Cleary, 37, of Prescot, and Highfield, of Sheffield, received two years behind bars.

Lindsay, of Kensington, will be sentenced on March 24.

Baby boom at care home

STAFF at a Skelmersdale care home have been experiencing a baby boom recently, with an abundance of little ones being born over the past 12 months.

To celebrate, a special gathering was held at Birch Green Care Home, in Ivydale where the new mothers and mothers-to-be gathered as residents got to meet the new arrivals.

Jamie Matthews brought in baby Olly, Nicky Rotherham brought in baby Jessica and Kim Hurst brought in baby Isla.

Some ladies also brought in their older children, who put further smiles on the faces of the residents by joining in with some singing and dancing.

A spokesperson for Birch Green Care Home said: "Expectant mums Jess Mooney and Rebekah Aldred were also there, listening to stories from our new mums, as well as pearls of wisdom from some of our residents on what to expect from motherhood.

"Unfortunately our other new mums couldn't make it, but congratulations also to Lisa Carter, Lyndsey Wood, Kay Matthews, Meg Edwards, Emma Thomas and Jemma Carrigg."

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County's £2m lifeline for bus services threatened with axe

Report by **Henry James**

A NUMBER of bus services in West Lancashire which looked set to be axed have been handed a possible lifeline after Lancashire County Council agreed to invest £2m to support routes in many areas which would otherwise have no public transport.

The county council has said the fund will support 28 routes, "to ensure people can get to work, do their shopping, and access education, health and other vital services".

The authority had been due to withdraw funding from 113 routes throughout the county from April with bus companies expected to operate 40 of these on a commercial basis.

But the decision by the county to fund a further 28 routes means 68 of the 113 threatened routes will continue from Monday, April 3 on a full or partial basis.

Routes to receive funding in West Lancashire include the numbers 3A, 5, 6 and 347 services.

A cross-party cabinet working group had been established to consider the impact of the decision by the county council to withdraw 113 existing bus contracts from April as part of £65m budget savings.

County CouncillorFillis

The group met to consider the response from bus operators to the new contracts being proposed, and made recommendations to the cabinet member for highways and transport to go ahead with funding 26 services for 12 months from April.

Following the meeting, it was decided to accept the working group's recommendations andalso to support the 24A and 109A services, to be funded in partnership with Chorley Council.

Skemersdale County Councillor John Fillis, Lancashire's cabinet member for highways and transport, said: "Following the decision by government to cut hundreds of millions of pounds of funding to Lancashire County Council we have been forced to reduce our current funding for buses from around £7m to £2m.

" I'm very pleased to accept the working group's recommendation to fund these bus services which will mean most areas of the county will continue to receive regular public transport.

"Some of these services will not operate as often as they do at the moment, but the new timetables will ensure there is a bus at peak times when people would most need them to access employment and education, and enough services to allow people to make vital appointments such as visiting the doctor.

"There has been a positive response from the bus companies in continuing to operate 40 services commercially and the decisions I have made today to invest £2m to support a further 28 services, mean that most areas will continue to be served by a bus after April.

"I'd encourage people to help us to maintain these buses by using them regularly. I hesitate to use the phrase 'use it or lose it' but it's clear that the best way to keep these buses is to use them."

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MP opens new E Rooms community facility

THE E Rooms (formally The Engine Rooms) based in Westgate in Skelmersdale held an event on Saturday, March 12 to celebrate its launch as a community interest company.

Starting at 3pm the free event featured Skelmersdale Prize Band, The E Rooms Community Choir, representatives from the E Rooms Young Guns and Rusty Guns projects, as well as local bands and musicians who all use the E Rooms facilities.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper performed the official opening ceremony.

A spokesman for the E Rooms said: "We cordially invited members of the public to come and celebrate with us and find out what makes the E Rooms the special place that it is.

"The E Rooms continues the good work started eight years ago by The Engine Rooms but with a broader scope, reaching out to the local community. We provide community music services, music education and entertainment to the people of Skelmersdale and West Lancashire."

LEFT: West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper officially opened The E Rooms at Westgate on Saturday. With her and local musicians who performed at the community arts centre are managing director Steve Horrocks (2nd from left) and trustees Ron Cooper (left) and Dave Beeston.

Sex fiend who tried to rape two-year-old jailed for 22 years

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A 25-YEAR-OLD man who tried to rape a two-year-old girl and seriously sexually attacked two other youngsters has received a 22-year sentence.

A judge ruled that Michael Fletcher is dangerous and jailed him for 14 years with an extended licence of eight years.

Fletcher, formerly of Skelmersdale, West Lancashire, showed not a flicker of emotion during his sentencing at Liverpool Crown Court where he had admitted attempting to rape the toddler.

He had also pleaded guilty to raping an eight-year-old boy and sexual activity with a girl when she was aged about 13.

Jailing jobless Fletcher, described as having mild learning difficulties, Judge Andrew Hatton said: "Your offending is extremely serious and I have to consider whether you are dangerous and whether you pose a significant risk of serious harm of committing further specified offences."

He said that a psychiatrist had narrowly decided he did not but the author of a probation report found that he was a danger and the judge said he agreed with that finding.

Fletcher, who has been living in a residential centre in Pemberton, Wigan since the offences came to light, was told that he will have to serve two thirds of the 14 years.

Judge Hatton ordered him to sign the Sex Offenders Register for life and he also imposed an indefinite Sexual Harm Behaviour Order.

Trevor Parry-Jones, prosecuting, said that it was only after the most recent offence, the attempted rape of the two-year-old came to light last March that details of the other offences, which occurred between 2007 and January last year, also came to light.

Opticians bid to raise awareness of sight threat

IN the wake of World Glaucoma Week (March 6-12) Specsavers in Skelmersdale is highlighting the importance of regular sight tests in detecting potentially sight threatening conditions.

Specsavers in Skelmersdale has partnered with the International Glaucoma Association in a bid to raise awareness of the condition.

Store director, Sully Patel, said: "A lot of people are familiar with the puff test but are unaware of what it is for.

"We use the test to measure the pressure on the eye, which if too high can indicate the presence of glaucoma.

"Early detection vastly improves the chance of saving someone's vision, which is why I am encouraging everyone in Skelmersdale aged over 40 to make sure they have the puff test as part of a full eye examination if they haven't had one in the last two years."

Preventable

Specsavers offers this test as part of the pre-screening process at no extra charge to all customers over 40. Early detection means the condition can be monitored and future damage to vision minimised.

It is estimated that there are 600,000 people in the UK with glaucoma, but half have not been diagnosed.

Karen Brewer, head of communications at the International Glaucoma Association, said: "We are delighted that Specsavers are raising awareness of glaucoma in the community.

"In the UK, it is the most common cause of preventable sight loss, yet many are unaware that glaucoma has no symptoms in the early stages and this is why regular sight tests are so important."

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Illegal immigrant jailed for sex assault in store

Report by **Lynda Roughley**

A SKELMERSDALE man who sexually assaulted a young woman in a shop has been jailed for 14 months.

Harjeet Chumber, who had illegally overstayed his visa to stay in this country, was told by a judge: "This, albeit short lived, was a degrading and terrifying experience for this young woman."

Judge Alan Conrad, QC, told 34-year-old Chumber that the fact that he had tried to dispose of evidence was an aggravating factor. He ordered him to sign on the Sex Offenders Register for ten years.

Liverpool Crown Court heard that the incident happened on Sunday, May 10 last year while the 23-year-old woman was in a convenience store in Digmoor.

Chumber was also present and he tricked her into going into the store room and after biting her on the lip and neck he put his hands inside her clothing and sexually molested her, said Rob Dudley, prosecuting.

Harjeet Chumber jailed for 14 months

Expired

She managed to push him away and went back home and told her boyfriend and friend, who were there, that he had attacked her.

A police officer arrived and saw she had a cut to her right hand, a red mark to her neck and a reddening of her lip.

When police arrived they found that shortly before they turned up Chumber appeared to have been making attempts to delete CCTV footage which might have covered the incident.

At the police station as officers were about to take nail clippings from him he tried to bite off his fingernails.

Mr Dudley said that Chumber had arrived in this country from India on a student visa but became an over-stayer when it expired in 2011 and refused to attend asylum interviews.

In an impact statement the victim said that she suffers from anxiety and depression which has worsened since the incident and it has affected her relationship with her boyfriend and parents.

Humber, of Fairstead, Skelmersdale, pleaded guilty to sexual assault.

Bunty Batra, defending, said that Chumber, who has no previous convictions, had expressed a degree of regret and shame. "He appreciates what he did was wrong."

Ahoy there! Sea Cadets open day aim to welcome new shipmates aboard

SKELMERSDALE'S Sea Cadets unit opened its doors to the town's young people on Saturday, March 12.

Young people were invited to the 'Come and Try It' session noon to 2pm where they could get involved in a variety of activities and team games for free.

Based in Tanhouse, next to Hillside Primary School, Skelmersdale Sea Cadets was established in 1985 and since then has supported many young people to get the best possible head start in life through nautical adventure and fun.

The unit meets twice a week on Tuesday and Friday evenings, as well as having several weekends away a year, when cadets take part in a variety of activities on land and water.

Skelmersdale Sea Cadets currently has spaces for more young people and volunteers to join the ranks at TS Rodney in Tawd Road.

Youngsters can drop in on any Tuesday or Friday evening from 7pm to find out about the opportunities that are available.

Sea Cadets NW area officer Cmdr. Phil Russ (centre) was guest of honour at the TS Rodney open day. Also pictured with cadets are Petty Officer Billy Halliday (centre left) and district officer Lt.Cmdr. Julie Redhead.

Canoe challenge chums make a splash for charity

PALS Daniel Ezzatvar and Robbie Heyes made a splash when they took part in their first-ever canoe challenge - raising hundreds of pounds for charity in the process.

Daniel (30) and 29-year-old Robbie, both from Skelmersdale, finished fourth out of around 30 duos in the Age UK event on the Lancaster Canal last Saturday (March 12).

The pair completed the 26-mile challenge in seven-and-a-half hours raising more than £300 for the charity.

A former pupil of Cobbs Brow Primary in Ashurst, Daniel is now a marketing manager at the GGR Group.

He said: "Before the race, we were really worried about not even finishing as we hadn't done much training, but surprisingly we found ourselves in the lead at one point!

"Tiredness crept in though and we slipped back a bit.

"However, to finish fourth is pretty good going and we're very pleased to have raised a few hundred pounds for a worthy cause.

"I'd like to express my thanks to everyone who supported us, including my colleagues at GGR Group.

Graeme Riley, chief executive of GGR Group, said: "Daniel did remarkably well in coming in the top five. And perhaps even more remarkably he turned up for work on Monday, saying he may even do it again in the future!

"Everyone at GGR Group is proud of him."

Daniel Ezzatvar (front) and Robbie Heyes on their way down the Lancaster Canal

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

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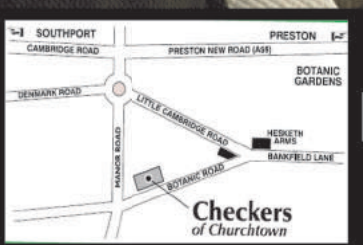

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Staff and service users at Orione Care's Cardinal Heenan House who took part in activities to mark Dignity Day.

Care home residents and staff enjoy Dignity Day events

STAFF at a Roby Mill care home organised a variety of different activities to mark Dignity Action Day.

The event at Cardinal Heenan House in School Lane was co-ordinated by the Dignity Champion at the home, Joanne Tocker.

Dignity Action Day aims to ensure people who use care services are treated as individuals and are enabled to have a sense of purpose in their lives.

A dignity tree was created at the home and paper 'leaves' were sent to family members of residents who were asked to write a word or sentence on the leaves to encapsulate what dignity meant to them in respect to how their family member is cared for.

Residents were also asked to write on the leaves what dignity meant to them and the leaves were then placed on the tree.

Different role plays were presented as well about what happens when dignity is not promoted and the correct way of promoting someone's dignity.

One staff member also made a special cake for the occasion while others read poems on the subject.

Joanne Tucker said: "This was the first time we had organised a day like this but we are going to do it every year from now on.

"We believe maintaining our residents' dignity is very important. People want to know that their family members are being looked after. If we are not maintaining their dignity, then they are not being looked after.

"Residents and staff both enjoyed the event."

Cabinet set to discuss plans for three new homes sites for town

Report by **Henry James**

PLANS which could see hundreds of new homes built in Skelmersdale were due to be discussed by West Lancs Council's cabinet at a meeting last night (Tuesday, March 15).

The West Lancashire Local Plan highlights the need for building at least 500 new homes within the Skelmersdale town centre strategic development site and at least 2,100 in Skelmersdale and Up Holland.

The council and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) want to see three sites which are part of the town centre development agreement with St Modwen "brought forward for housing development."

The sites are at Findon, a brownfield site owned by the HCA; a greenfield site at Delf Clough, also owned by the agency; and the former Digmoor Sports Centre site which is a council-owned brownfield site.

The council is looking at attaching local development orders (LDOs) to the Findon and former Digmoor Sports Centre sites as "these would provide a developer with more certainty when considering the purchase of the site and a greater degree of flexibility than a planning application/permission, thus potentially tipping the balance in a developer's consideration of whether to take on the site and develop it."

The council is also looking at attaching an LDO at Delf Clough.

In a press statement last November the council said that the proposed LDOs "will simplify planning arrangements by granting permitted development rights associated with the delivery of residential development on the sites.

"This will encourage the building of homes on these sites by making the planning process for these three sites more flexible and streamlined, helping to reduce costs and timescales and enable construction to start quickly.

Consultation

"These arrangements will mean that developers, within certain guidelines, can erect housing without requiring planning permission."

A public consultation exercise was undertaken from November 19, 2015 to January 4, 2016 and the council said the feedback will help move the issue to the next stage.

If cabinet decides to approve the local development orders, the adoption will be effective immediately.

In a report for last night's meeting officers commented: "The approval of LDOs for the Findon, former Digmoor Sports Centre and Delf Clough sites will help deliver the Local Plan, in particular housing within the Skelmersdale town centre strategic development site and within Skelmersdale generally."

Students' display at library

UP Holland Library is again hosting an exhibition showcasing a number of projects, and creative displays by West Lancashire College art and design, textiles students.

The previous exhibition in January was a success and as result of the feedback received the students were invited back to display their work again, this time their textile creations.

The exhibition is open for viewing all week during Library hours until Monday, March 21.

Abstinence group drop-in sessions

A LONG-term abstinence group for people in recovery following problems with alcohol and drugs is to begin new drop-in sessions in Skelmersdale.

These will be held on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9pm at the Greenhill Community Centre, starting on March 24.

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Council to hold 'listening' events for older people

COUNCIL chiefs are issuing a "we want to hear your concerns" call to the older people of West Lancashire by holding 'listening' events in the borough next week.

The meetings aim to give pensioners the opportunity to give their views on any matters or problems in West Lancs which might be worrying them to Councillor Terry Aldridge, the authority's cabinet member with portfolio for older people.

A member of the council's money advice team will also be at the sessions to deal with any issues with regards to finances that people might wish to raise.

The first listening event will be held on Tuesday, March 22 in the meeting room at the Chapel Gallery, St Helens Road, Ormskirk. It will start at noon and is expected to last until around 1.30pm.

A second will then be staged on Wednesday, March 23 at Evermoor Enterprises (formerly Digmoor Community Centre), Digmoor, Skelmersdale, again running from noon to 1.30pm.

The sessions are free to attend and all are welcome but places should be booked by ringing Jane McNeice on 01695 585216 or emailing jane.mcneice@westlancs.gov.uk.

Councillor Aldridge said: "The main purpose of the events is for me to listen to residents so I hope they will take this opportunity to give me their views.

"We are keen to listen so I'd like people to come along so we can listen to the views of older people about council services.

"We aim to be a listening council, talking to people face-to-face and getting a better understanding of the situation in different areas of the borough.

"In turn, this will help us to shape some of the policies and services that affect older people and I hope it will give us a better understanding of our local communities."

Cllr. Aldridge is also Lancashire County Council's older people champion and performs this role for the borough council as well.

Councillor Terry Aldridge

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Still waiting for a reply on pothole compensation claim

AFTER reading an article in the Champion regarding a pothole in Aughton I felt I should share my story too.

I hit a very large pothole on Thursday, January 7 at 9pm due to it being dark. It completely ripped my three-months-old tyre in two so it needed replacing the following day.

I complained to Lancashire County Council and filled in all the paperwork they required and sent them receipts and photographs.

I received a letter from someone called Amy Croft on January 27 who would be dealing with my claim. Shortly after, the pothole was filled in (therefore accepting liability in my eyes) but as the pothole was filled in so poorly it was back within two weeks.

On February 22, 23 and 24 I rang Amy and left voicemails but received no response. I then emailed and stated that if I had no response within seven days I would be taking it further.

Funnily enough, she emailed back saying that she had all the information required and would now investigate my claim.

Why does it need investigating I have asked, when she has all the evidence. I have told her the pothole is back and bigger, on two occasions after seeing someone else's complaint about it on social media, also that Up Holland and Skelmersdale is full of them.

I am still waiting for a reply.

Kirstie Bradshaw, by email

No excuse for state of roads

I AGREE with your earlier correspondent D.A.A. (Letters, February 17) about the state of the borough's roads.

I drive a lot, every day in fact, and have to say that they must be the worst roads in Lancashire.

Oh, yes, Cottage Lane. I can't understand that the council thinks that there is any excuse for that road to be in that condition.

If those potholes get any worse that they will probably become fatal for someone.

G. E. W., road user, West Lancs

I'd be happy to pay £2 to help save our buses

I AM 73-years-old and I have a bus pass so I can travel on the buses after 9.30am in the morning and all weekend.

But the county council are going to take the buses off some bus routes so what is the good in having a bus pass without a bus service? We still have to pay for a train ticket, to drive your car, and taxis.

So I say if we paid £2 for the first ride and the others are free throughout the day, this could help save our buses and you are still helping disabled people to go out and about!

What is £2 a day to save your bus? Less than a cup of coffee.

The £2 would go towards keeping the buses on the road.

I know it is awful, but the pass could go one day.

Eric Daish, Westhead

Tory comedians could start a new Crazy Gang

WHAT an amusing fellow this David Westley is ('Tories accuse council of failing residents' - Champion, March 2)- such a wicked sense of irony!

To be a member of a political party that is systematically closing down the Welfare State and destroying local services and then accuse his rivals of failing local people is priceless.

Next he'll be claiming that balancing the national budget is the only salvation for Britain when such a strategy was clearly revealed as useless in the 1930s by Chamberlain's pathetic efforts to deal with the Great Depression.

Perhaps Westley should team up with some of the other comedians in Westminster for a new 'Crazy Gang'?

Professor Michael Paris, Parbold

Our Rangers are doing a great job

WE would like to pass on our many thanks to West Lancs ranger service.

The work they have carried out behind Greetby Hill School approaching the station is remarkable.

Walking our dog we regularly pick up litter only to find it regularly replenished the next day.

This much-needed work really makes a difference to our enjoyment of our community.

It would be nice if our local schools could be persuaded to talk with the ranger service and hopefully educate our children that making our community a mess affects us all, including our local wildlife.

Rob and Deb Martindale, Ormskirk

Turbine is a sight to give you sore eyes!

SO N.B.(Letters, March 9) thinks that the wind turbine is a sight for sore eyes - it is, for giving them to you!

Obviously, he or she lives nowhere near to it, or is not in direct line of sight of it. It is a gigantic monstrosity, a blight on the landscape.

I am not alone in having a house that faces south and almost opposite to it approximately a quarter-of-a-mile from it as the crow flies.

As a result, it is the first thing I see of a morning and the last at night as I close my bedroom curtains, seeming to loom over me like the fictional Martian war machines.

More bother than it's worth.

DWS, Tanhouse

PICTURE of the week

A magnificent display of colour at Southport's Hesketh Park heralds the arrival of Spring. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Chance to get it off your chest...

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest, why not drop us a line at The Champion?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name and address for the purpose of verification, although not necessarily for publication.

Correspondents not wishing to have their name published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the addresses listed at the top of this page.

Please note that the editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Our feathered friends need all the help they can get - but no stale bread or peanuts, please!

UK birds need a fairly constant amount of energy throughout the year and in winter they need energy to keep warm.

Although it is popular to feed birds and ducks stale bread, please tell your children and friends there is hardly any nutritional value in it and birds can suffer serious vitamin deficiencies and starve to death.

Avoid old, stale food, margarine, vegetable oils, milk, desiccated coconut or salted food. They need clean drinking water, mild grated cheese, cooked potatoes and cooked rice.

In spring time include black sunflower seeds, soaked raisins and currants, soft apples and pears cut in half, bananas and grapes, good-quality seed mixtures but NO loose peanuts.

For suitable foods at other times of the year check out the RSBP website.

With the ever-increasing use of pesticides and slug pellets our feathered friends need all the help they can get.

A. Cartmell, Sefton Green Party

An accident waiting to happen

ON the subject of dangerous potholes I recently read the complaint from 'Angry Pothole Spotter' in the March 9 edition of the Champion newspapers and I agree with this person.

I myself have recently hit a pothole in Bold Lane causing me to have a new tyre on my car.

This could have caused me a serious accident. There are a number of potholes in that road that need desperate attention.

Is anybody planning the repair of these potholes soon before an accident happens?

E.B., Town Green

Devoted ladies' wonderful work

I WOULD like, through The Champion, to express my heartfelt appreciation and admiration for a group of ladies who, 36 years ago, formed The Skelmersdale Lourdes Association.

Besides being busy mothers, homemakers and employees, they devoted much of their free time to fundraise thousands of pounds to enable sick and disabled people to travel to the shrine in Lourdes.

I am, like many others, a grateful recipient of their charitable work and devotion and write this letter in recognition of their wonderful work.

Sheila H., Tanhouse.

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Charity to host free advice event for people with failing eyesight

AN awareness event is being held for people in West Lancs suffering from deteriorating vision.

The free event has been organised by the Aughton and Ormskirk branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A), a charitable organisation that seeks to inspire older people to take up new hobbies and interests.

It will be held at the scout and guide headquarters behind Christ Church off Long Lane in Aughton on Tuesday, March 22 starting at 2pm

A team from national charity, Action for Blind People, will demonstrate how modern technologies can help to keep everyone in touch via i-Pads, other tablet devices and mobile phones.

Members of the public are urged to bring along any devices that they own although there will be equipment to try and lots of opportunity for hands-on experience at the event.

Sue Watkinson, from Aughton and Ormskirk U3A, said: "If you or someone you know is worried about sight loss then please consider coming along."

Although free, places are limited and must be booked by calling Sue on 01695 422 423.

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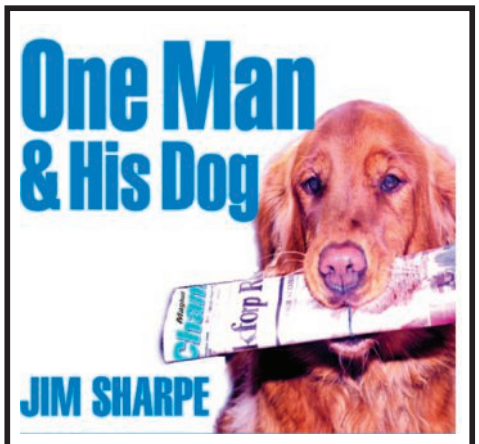

Laptops might have a 'brain' but my old typewriter had a soul!

WELL, it had to happen. I have upset the Gods of All Things Digital, big time.

Hardly surprising perhaps since I have been railing against their infernal machines for quite some time. But what chance does a pygmy such as I have against electronic Gods?

I have had my arguments with my digital TV - and more particularly with its digital recorder. And frankly we seem to have arrived at a sort or grudging compromise.

Unhappily though, I have now learned the hard way that I cannot treat the laptop, up on which I rely to get my copy to the Champion, in quite the same cavalier fashion. Because of recent times it has bitten back, good style.

It started in a small way by suddenly switching itself off from time to time, so forcing me to start whatever I was doing again.

Then, having no doubt realised that I was still coping, the Digital Gods moved on to Stage Two. It began not to switch back on again - claiming that my (non-existent) computer had faults. Faults it would fix if I pressed the right key.

I found that if I followed its instructions it would claim to have reset itself to the last time all was well (October 24th last year to be precise) and switch on again.

Certainly it had reset something – it had reverted back to BST and I therefore had to reset the clock as well. Unhappily though, the remedy did nothing to stop its other antics.

By trial and error I found that if I simply unplugged it from the mains, started it and when the battery flattened replace it again, all was well. Until yesterday.

Then yes, although to outward appearances all seemed well, it simply refused point blank actually to type anything at all. Followers of the now very cross Gods have finally triumphed.

The laptop is even now being examined to see what I have done unto it and whether it can be persuaded to do its job again; or if indeed it's due for that great Digital scrapyard in the sky.

So this 'Dog' column is being put in on a borrowed machine at Champion Towers. I'll let you know how the laptop has got on next week - I hope!

Actually, I entered the simply electronic, as opposed to digital, world quite willingly many years ago when working for BT. My boss, the Eastern Region press officer and myself were allocated two brand-new, top-of-the-range, electronic typewriters, the very best of the breed and, in fact, superior to those possessed by the regional directors' secretaries.

And I loved my machine. Of course, it was 'just' a typewriter, it didn't possess any 'brain' of its own. But it did have something missing from any digital contrivance - a soul!

When you switched it on of a morning it made all sorts of whirring and clicking noises before settling down to do your bidding – and nothing more.

It made absolutely no attempt to boss you about, to scold you or to blame you. It simply did its job and let you get on with yours.

Those were the days, my friend.

Memory check call as part of new dementia awareness campaign

Family and friends urged to help spot tell-tale signs

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

GET it checked by your GP!

That's the message being issued to people experiencing problems with their memory as part of a new dementia awareness campaign launched by Lancashire County Council this week.

County Councillor Azhar Ali

The campaign, supported by the Alzheimer's Society, is also aimed at friends and relatives who may have noticed changes in the memory or behaviour of someone they know who are being urged to help them spot the signs and start a conversation about it.

County Councillor Azhar Ali, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We all misplace things from time to time, forget names or have changes in our mood.

"But this campaign is about helping people notice if it is beginning to disrupt everyday life, and letting them know that the sooner they get it checked out the better.

Diagnosed

"It can be difficult to start a conversation with someone if you are concerned that they may be showing signs of dementia or another memory-related condition.

"But those who get help earlier have a better quality of life for longer, so it's important that they go to their GP at the earliest sign of any problems."

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, the county's director of public health and wellbeing, added: "There are currently more than 10,000 people in Lancashire who have been diagnosed with dementia but it is estimated that the actual number of people with the condition is much higher.

"These are people who may have dementia but are not aware of it and therefore are not getting support to help them live well with the condition."

For more information go to the website www.lancashire.gov.uk/dementia

MP demands fairer deal for borough in Budget

ROSIE Cooper is demanding a better deal from the government.

The West Lancs MP has called on Chancellor George Osborne to offer a fairer funding package for the borough when he announces his latest Budget today (Wednesday, March 16).

According to figures released by the Labour party West Lancashire residents will have lost £81.64 spending power per household by 2020.

She said: "As these figures show, the Conservative government is expecting local councils to do more and more whilst significantly slashing council budgets.

"Despite all the government's talk about protecting local services, these figures reveal the reality. It is the people of West Lancashire paying the price of a government who continue to fill the coffers of their friends rather than supporting all communities."

And Steve Reed, the shadow minister for local government, added: "The government said they were protecting local services but the reality is more and deeper cuts everywhere except the wealthiest areas.

"They promised to be a one nation government but everyone can see they are taking from the poor to give to the rich like some kind of reverse Robin Hood.

"Local services are at risk thanks to decisions made by Tory ministers who hope people won't see through their hollow promises."

Rosie Cooper

Civic dance date

THE Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy and her consort, Paul, will host the annual Civic Dinner and Dance at the Lancashire Manor Hotel, Up Holland on Friday, March 18, starting at 7pm.

Air Cadets dinner

DEPUTY Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage, will attend the 1439 (Skelmersdale) Air Cadets Squadron annual dinner at the Lancashire Manor Hotel on Saturday, March 19.

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Call for more beat bobbies

THE Conservative candidate for the Lancashire police and crime commissioner role, Andy Pratt, has been canvassing the views of West Lancs residents on their local policing issues.

Matters raised by the public during his visit to Ormskirk town centre included the call for a crackdown on anti-social behaviour, a desire to see the police working more closely with the community and appeals for more officers out 'on the beat' in the area.

Champion News Desk
Tel. 01704 392400

Isaac Brewer, Matthew Pearson, Thomas Marshall and James Allen.

'Savvy' students banking on success in national finance challenge

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A QUARTET of shrewd students from West Lancashire have reached the semi-finals of a national virtual investment competition.

Isaac Brewer, Matthew Pearson, Thomas Marshall and James Allen from Burscough Priory Science College competed against 10,000 other teams from across the UK to win a place in the IFS Student Investor Challenge, having 'made' £4,000 in a three-month period of virtual online trading.

The IFS Student Investor Challenge, run by financial education charity IFS University College, is the largest investment competition for schools in the UK.

It's free to enter and provides teams with two virtual investment portfolios of £100,000 where they are challenged to make both short-term and strategic trades.

Philosophy

The Burscough team, known as the 'BPSC greats', will now go on to represent the college in the next phase of the challenge, where they will be awarded points for accurately predicting the closing price of certain assets on a weekly basis, testing different skills.

If they are successful at the semi-final stage, they will have the chance of making it through to the national final in April where they could win an all-expenses-paid educational trip to New York and £2,000.

Dr Graham Clarke, headteacher at Burscough Priory Science College, said: "We passionately believe that all young people have the right to an education that prepares them for life. At Burscough Priory Science College, we strive to do this every day and the IFS Student Investor Challenge is an excellent example of this philosophy in action in our school curriculum.

"Congratulations to all involved in the team."

Public invited to health body board meeting

THE NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are to hold their next board meeting in public at the Lancashire Manor Hotel, Prescott Road, East Pimbo, Skelmersdale on Tuesday, March 22 starting at 9.30am.

Members of the public are invited to attend to observe the meeting which will be held in the hotel's Lathom North room.

Questions relating to items on the agenda, which is published one week prior to the meeting, can also be raised by visiting the governing body page of the CCG's website at www.westlancashireccg.nhs.uk.uk or by contacting the secretary to the board directly on 01695 588144 by noon on Monday, March 21.

There is also the opportunity for members of the public and other attendees to have an informal discussion with board members at the end of the meeting which is expected to last for around two hours.

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Michael Prendergast and staff from Dickinson, Parker Hill present the cheque for £11, 611 to representatives of PhabKids.

Law firm's 'Phab-ulous' effort for charity!

THE local branch of a charity which encourages and supports children and adults with and without disabilities to make more of life together has been given a five-figure boost - thanks to the staff and clients of Dickinson Parker Hill Solicitors.

The firm based in Derby Street, Ormskirk raised more than £11,600 for the £11,600 for the Southport and Ormskirk Branch of PhabKids by taking part in the annual Charity Will Month campaign.

Since 2009, the firm has raised more than £73,000 for local good causes by taking part in Charity Will Month each November. The scheme works by clients making a donation to charity instead of paying a fee for their will. The minimum donation for a simple single will is £60 and £120 for simple mirror wills.

Michael Prendergast, partner at Dickinson Parker Hill, said: "Once again we want to thank all of our staff and clients for taking part in this very worthwhile cause. We are pleased to be able to help local people through the provision of an important service and help a local charity at the same time."

PhabKids will use the funds to continue to provide their services throughout Lancashire and the surrounding area. They help disabled children get involved in a variety of sports and activities.

ADVERTORIAL

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton & Bootle areas and manager Louis Richards agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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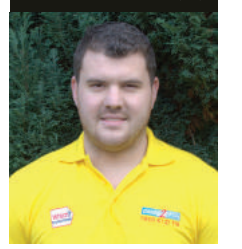

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County council backs drive to tackle child abuse

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE County Council is backing a government campaign to tackle child abuse.

'Together, We Can Tackle Child Abuse' encourages people to report any suspicions they have that a child may be being neglected or abused.

Figures revealed as part of the campaign show that 37% of people across the North West are put off reporting suspected child abuse for fear of being wrong.

Statistics also show that 41% of people in the region would find reporting the neglect or abuse of a child more challenging than delivering news of the death of a friend or family member.

The campaign aims to emphasise the message that everyone has a role in tackling child abuse. It will reassure people that they don't need to worry about being wrong and to act on their suspicions and report any possible child abuse or neglect.

Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, said: "All children have the right to be protected and be safe from all forms of abuse and neglect.

"The police, social care workers and staff from other agencies do a great job of looking for signs of abuse and neglect and reporting it. However, we all have a part to play.

"Research tells us that a third of people who suspect child abuse don't do anything about it. A number of people do not act on their suspicions because they're worried about being wrong.

Bigger picture

"It's important to remember you don't have to be certain about your suspicions - if you have a feeling that something isn't right, talk to your local children's social care team who can look into it.

"Information about potential abuse is gathered from many sources and your report would form one part of a bigger picture.

"People reporting abuse really does make a difference. In 2014/15, more than 400,000 children in England were supported because someone noticed they needed help. This just shows the value and importance of reporting suspect abuse and I'd urge people to come forward and talk to our social care teams if they have suspicions."

To report child abuse or neglect, visit gov.uk/reportchildabuse or contact Lancashire County Council's childrens' assessment and referral team on 0300 123 6720 in normal office hours (8am to 8pm) or 0300 123 6722 outside office hours.

If you believe someone is in immediate danger of harm, or their life may be at risk, call 999 as soon as possible.

To spot possible signs of child abuse or neglect, look for the following changes, often referred to as the ABC signs:

- Appearance – such as frequent unexplained injuries, consistently poor hygiene, matted hair, unexplained gifts, or a parent regularly collecting children from school when drunk.
- Behaviour - such as demanding or aggressive behaviour, frequent lateness or absence from school, avoiding their own family, misusing drugs or alcohol, or being constantly tired.
- Communication – such as sexual or aggressive language, self-harming, becoming secretive and reluctant to share information or being overly obedient.

County councillor Matthew Tomlinson

The search is on for heroic pets

CALLING all pet owners in West Lancashire!

If your furry, feathered or four-legged friend has done something heroic now's your chance to nominate them for a special award in the Blue Cross Medal 2016 competition.

Sally de la Bedoyere, chief executive of the Blue Cross animal welfare charity, said: "The Blue Cross medal is our way of honouring the amazing connection we have with our pets. They can be heroes for all sorts of reasons and we want to hear your stories about the ways that they have made a difference."

The Blue Cross Medal was reinstated in 2014 to mark the centenary of the start of the First World War when it was first awarded to honour horses which had served in the war.

Sick, injured and homeless pets have relied on Blue Cross since 1897 and the charity played an important role providing front-line veterinary care to horses during the First World War.

Nominations for the medal are now open. To nominate a pet and find out more, visit the website: www.bluecross.org.uk/medal.

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Excellence accolade for Vauxhall dealership team

John Dickson (left) is presented with the award by Simon Oldfield

MEMBERS of a local car dealership are celebrating after scooping an award in a national customer excellence initiative.

The 42-strong team at 06 Vauxhall in County Road, Ormskirk were awarded the accolade by Vauxhall Motors' chairman and managing director, Rory Harvey, after being ranked in the top 50 of the company's 430 dealerships nationwide judged on their sales figures and customers' after-sale satisfaction surveys.

The team previously came in the top 50 in the company's annual list in 2013.

John Dickson, managing director of the Ormskirk dealership, was presented with the award by Vauxhall Motors' sales and marketing director, Simon Oldfield.

He said: "We are so pleased to have won the award for the second time. It's very hard to get and I am so pleased with my team. It's great to know we are one of the highest-performing dealerships in the country."

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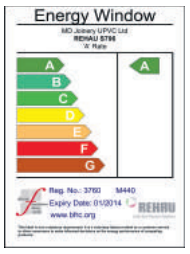

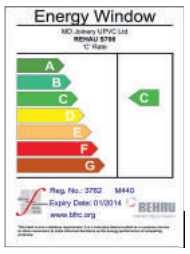

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Pupils' boost for food banks

BIG-hearted schoolchildren have collected more than 1,000 items for local food banks.

Staff and pupils from Ormskirk School held the collection to support of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale and Knowsley Trussell Trust food banks as part of a week-long project designed to teach pupils about local charities and donating.

The project ended with an event showcasing the donated food and a talk by Duncan Petty, a minister from Oaks Church in Tanhouse who is also a board member for the Trussel Trust food bank in Skelmersdale.

Mr Petty fielded in-depth questions from the pupils about his commitment to various charitable projects around the local area.

The donated food has now been taken to the food banks' storage facilities where it will be packaged up and sent out to local families in need.

Religious education teacher and project organise, Jennifer Moore, said that it was important for the children's development to learn how to be charitable.

She said: "It is so important for our children and young people to engage with these issues in a real way.

"The reality is that thousands of families in the North West rely on food banks on a regular basis. By donating food and meeting with the representatives from the food banks, pupils can begin to understand the real-life implications of the topics we discuss in our classrooms every day."

Minister Duncan Petty addresses pupils at Ormskirk School

Staff and residents from Abbey Wood Lodge who enjoyed a trip to Southport

Seaside celebration

A GROUP of residents from a care home in Ormskirk enjoyed a trip to the seaside to celebrate International Women's Day.

The party from Abbey Wood Lodge on County Road made the short journey to Dobbies Garden Centre in Southport, where they enjoyed sandwiches and cakes before toasting the achievement of women everywhere with a glass of wine.

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Parks and countryside events guide published

THE 2016 Parks and Countryside Events programme has been published featuring the free events taking place in West Lancs in the coming year.

Residents will be able to join the council rangers on activities such as the Chequer Lane clean-up on Saturday, March 19, starting at 10am and the Fairy Glen circular walk on Friday, March 25, also at 10am.

Junior rangers can enjoy Springwatch events in April and Autumnwatch sessions in November, as well as a full range of summer activities on four of the council's sites.

Major events planned for later in the year include the Medieval Weekend at Coronation Park, Ormskirk, on Saturday and Sunday, May 14 and 15, and the Green Fayre at Beacon Country Park on July 23 and 24.

The programme includes a range of walks, events and concerts all year around.

To find out more pick up one of the council's free booklets which are available to collect from local libraries, community centres, information centres, leisure centres and the visitor centre at Beacon Country Park. The programme is also available to download from the website www.westlancs.gov.uk/countryside

West Lancs Council Rangers with copies of the 2016 Parks and Countryside events leaflets.

To receive an events programme through the post, email your name and full address to beacon.park@westlancs.gov.uk or telephone 01695 622794.

West Lancashire Parks and Countryside Service manage 13 sites across the borough including the Green Flag award-winning Beacon Country Park in Up Holland and Coronation Park in Ormskirk. These sites are recognised as being amongst the best green spaces in the country.

Other sites managed by the service are Abbey Lakes, Up Holland; Cheshire Lines Cycle Path, Altcar; Chequer Lane Lake, Up Holland; Dean Wood, Up Holland; Fairy Glen, off Parbold Hill; Hunters Hill, Hilldale; Platts Lane Lakes, Burscough; Richmond Park, Burscough; Ruff Wood, Ormskirk; Stanley Coronation Park, Skelmersdale; and Tawd Valley Park, Skelmersdale

Local firms miss out on business awards

WEST Lancashire businesses narrowly missed out at the Red Rose Awards when 26 coveted trophies were handed out to the county's best businesses.

The event, held at Blackpool's Winter Gardens' Empress Ballroom saw companies from the length and breadth of the county vying for titles across a range of categories, with the best, as selected by a panel of expert judges, progressing through to the shortlist and interview stage.

Skelmersdale-based Fairbanks, which provides monitoring services for the petrol retail industry, was a finalist in the Innovation Award, the International Achievement Award and Large Business Award category; Scott Rees and Co. solicitors was a finalist in the Legal Business Award; and Cedar Farm a finalist in the Retail Business Award and the Rural Diversification Award.

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Pictured are (from left) Lathom Park member David Dunn, chairman Paul Kenyon, guest speaker Doctor Lloyd and group members Susan Dunn, Pam Nanson and Peter Ferguson

Fascinating peep into past

MEMBERS of Lathom Park Trust enjoyed a fascinating talk on the fourth Earl of Derby at their annual general meeting at Briars Hall Hotel.

Guest speaker, Doctor Stephen Lloyd, the curator of the Derby collection at Knowsley Hall, gave a talk on the household inventory and the funeral of Henry, the fourth Earl of Derby, who died in 1593, at his house at New Park, Lathom, which is now the site of Ormskirk Golf Club.

Dr Lloyd also read out the account of the funeral procession which was attended by nobility from all over England.

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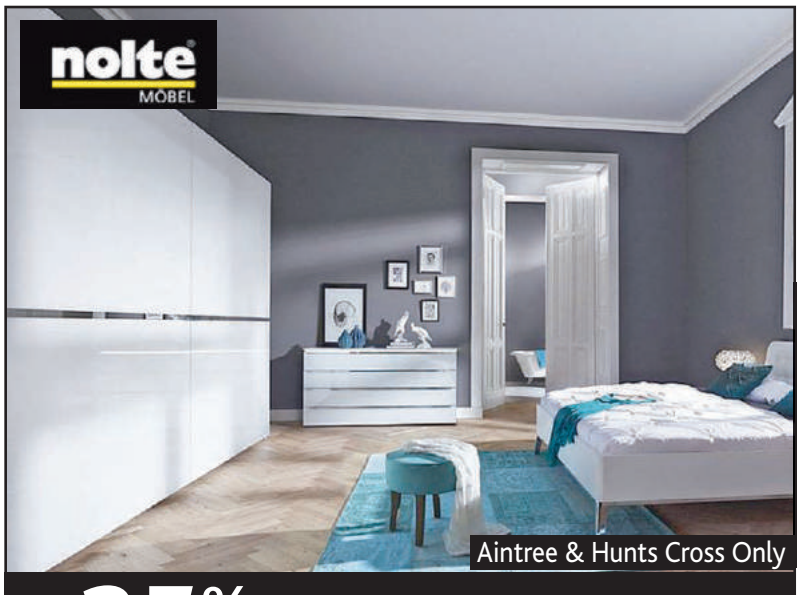

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Choir's Spring Concert

PARBOLD Chamber Choir are staging their next performance, their Spring Concert, on Saturday, March 19 when they will present a concert of baroque music with orchestra at Christ Church, Parbold Hill.

The concert will get underway at 7.30pm and will feature six talented local soloists and an accomplished guest orchestra with the choir.

The programme will include Handel's Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite and Ode for the Birthday of Queen Anne; Purcell's Hail, Bright Cecilia and Vivaldi's Flute Concerto in D.

Refreshments will be served in the interval and tickets, priced £10, are available on the door or can be reserved in advance from 01257 464653 or 01704 821303 or email contact@parboldchamberchoir.co.uk.

Got a story? Ring the Champion News Desk on 01704 392400

Engagement event offers local businesses chance to bid for constabulary contracts

Report by **Henry James**

LOCAL businesses are being given the chance to 'pitch' for contracts with Lancashire Constabulary for the first time by attending a supplier engagement event at the force headquarters in Hutton.

Organised in conjunction with leading procurement and supply chain management service, Constructionline, the event on Wednesday, March 30 offers contractors the chance to bid for works across the organisation and is aimed primarily at small local businesses.

It will inform potential suppliers about the opportunities to bid for inclusion within a framework agreement, for reactive repairs and maintenance, for minor works up to the sum of £60,000 per category.

The works will cover headquarters as well as the force's stations across Lancashire. Local suppliers can bid for the whole of the region or just the areas of East, West and South Lancashire.

Lancashire Constabulary is looking for contractors who can supply skills and services such as groundworks, joinery (including UPVC), plumbing, drainage, mechanical engineering, roofing (including cladding) general building, electrical repairs, painting and decorating, fabrication and locks.

Clive Grunshaw

A spokesman for the constabulary said: "This is a great opportunity to be able to work with small local suppliers in Lancashire who can provide a range of services across the region. It also enables us to create a pool of companies, ensuring that works will be carried out quickly and efficiently."

The county's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, added: "Local businesses are at the heart of communities across Lancashire and it's really important that we find new ways of working with them.

"I am committed to an approach of commissioning Lancashire-based services and companies wherever we can through events such as this. I hope as many local suppliers as possible come along, find out about the opportunities available and register with us."

Representatives from the estates department will be on hand to answer any questions and there will also be staff from Constructionline available to assist with queries regarding the registration process.

Anyone requiring further information can email allan.williams@lancashire.pnn.police.uk or call 01253 8874440.

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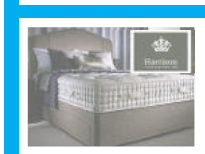

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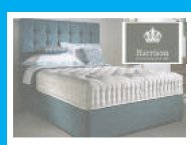

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Emily targets dream volunteer nursing mission to Sri Lanka

Edge Hill student needs to raise £1,600 to fund trip

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

A STUDENT nurse has launched a fundraising campaign to help her achieve a long-held ambition to volunteer abroad.

Emily Cropper, a third year adult nursing student at Edge Hill University, needs to raise £1,600 to fund a month-long stint volunteering at a hospital in Sri Lanka.

The 20-year-old from Southport has set her sights on making the trip to help out at the Kandy teaching hospital, the second largest hospital on the island nation which she says would be 'a dream come true.'

She said: "I have always wanted to be a nurse since I was a little girl. I am very passionate about nursing and have had some amazing experiences on placements in the UK.

"But I would very much like to experience health care abroad and I'm currently fundraising to try and get enough money so I can volunteer at a hospital in Sri Lanka for a month in June. While there I would provide care and treatment to those in need in a country that is much less affluent than the UK.

Emily Cooper wants to fulfil her dream of nursing abroad

"Hopefully, if I reach my target the funds are going to enable me to work voluntarily in the General Teaching Hospital in Kandy, Sri Lanka, where I will be working in the theatre and A&E departments dealing with trauma and emergency care.

"This trip will not only help me gain vital experience for my future career and help me live my dream of helping others, but provide much-needed hands-on experience and enable me to share the nursing knowledge I have gained so far in my training."

For more information about Emily's campaign go to www.gofundme.com/xqng2f4s.

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Memorial fund donation is 'grand' gesture for hospice

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A DONATION of £1,000 has been made to Queenscourt Hospice from a memorial fund.

Members of the Lady Lathom Endowment and Memorial Fund made the donation to the Southport-based hospice, which cares for patients with serious illnesses from Southport, Formby and West Lancs, enabling them to achieve the best possible quality of life at each new stage.

Paul Kenyon, clerk and treasurer of the fund, said: "The fund was set up in the early 1900s by the then Second Earl of Lathom, Lord Derby and Mr Winsloe, a Liverpool merchant, all prominent Freemasons, in memory of the late Countess of Lathom, Countess Alice, who was tragically killed in 1897 in a coaching accident on the Lathom estates.

"The fund originally provided nurses who administered to sick people in the Lathom and Skelmersdale areas before the start of the NHS

"Over the years, the fund has made donations to various charitable causes in Lathom and Skelmersdale and is still operated by local Freemasons."

On Monday, March 14, fund trustee Bryan Collier and Paul Kenyon presented the cheque to Queenscourt Hospice's individual giving fundraiser Harriet Wilkinson and nurse Angela Bevington.

Pictured are nurse Angela Bevington, fund trustee Bryan Collier, Harriet Wilkinson from Queenscourt Hospice and fund treasurer Paul Kenyon

Church conversion plans re-submitted

PLANS to convert a former church into a nursery have been submitted for a second time.

Applicant, Gillian Lloyd has re-submitted a planning application to West Lancs Council for a change of use of the former Rufford Methodist Church in Brick Kiln Lane.

Plans were originally submitted in June last year but were withdrawn in September as Mrs Lloyd stated that she was awaiting a number of reports.

The building was sold on property website Rightmove for £250,000 in 2013.

Planning permission was previously granted to convert the property into a residential home.

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Store launches search for caring young pet owners

STAFF at a new pet store in Burscough are holding a competition to find the 'most caring and responsible' young pet owner in the area.

The winner of the competition, which is open to primary and secondary school children who live in Burscough, will win £100 of Pets at Home vouchers.

And along with their entire school class they will be invited to participate in an exclusive workshop at the store at the Ringtail Retail Park, where they will learn about the welfare needs of different animals.

The class will also get to see and hold some of the store's small animals up close.

Store manager, Sarah Yould, said: "Owning a pet is often the first responsibility many children get to enjoy. We are really looking forward to hearing the great examples of responsible pet ownership from young people in the local area and celebrating the next generation of pet owners.

"We want to recognise a young pet owner who has shown a level of responsibility way beyond their years when it comes to caring for their furry friends. They might be taking on essential duties involved in pet care, or have formed a special bond with their pet.

"Burscough's young pet owner will be a shining example of how the five pet welfare needs - shelter, food and water, good health, appropriate company and the right living environment – are essential for keeping pets happy and healthy."

To nominate a young pet owner, email petslocal@havasww.com with details of why they are deserving of the title, plus the nominee's school and contact details with Burscough in the subject box by Friday, March 25.

Some great prizes are up for grabs for one caring young pet owner and their classmates

In red, the winning team from St John's Church of England Primary School with the team from Woodland Community Primary (in green)

St John's net place in schools county finals

SPORTY youngsters from a primary school in Burscough have netted a place at this year's SPAR Lancashire School Games county finals after taking victory in high five netball.

The team from St John's Church of England Primary School battled it out against pupils from Woodland Community Primary at Glenburn Sports College to bag the top spot.

They will now go on to represent West Lancashire at the SPAR Lancashire School Games finals at Stanley Park, Blackpool on July 5, where they will compete against teams from 14 other Lancashire districts to be named county champions in high five netball.

The keenly-contested match saw the St John's net six goals in the first half of the game alone, while they scored an additional goal and conceded one in the second period of the match.

Chris Hart, the school games organiser for West Lancashire, said: "This year's high five netball spot at the SPAR Lancashire School Games was much sought after, with both teams displaying a high level of skill and sportsmanship throughout the match.

"A massive well-done to the pupils from Burscough St John's Church of England Primary School for bagging the place. I can't wait to cheer you on at the county finals."

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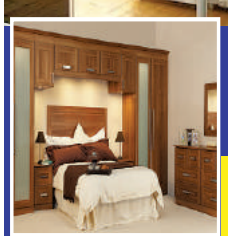

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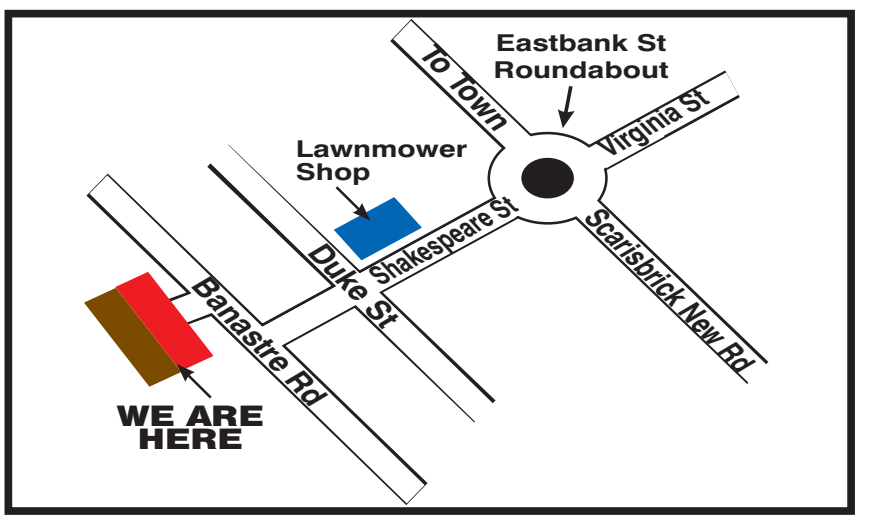

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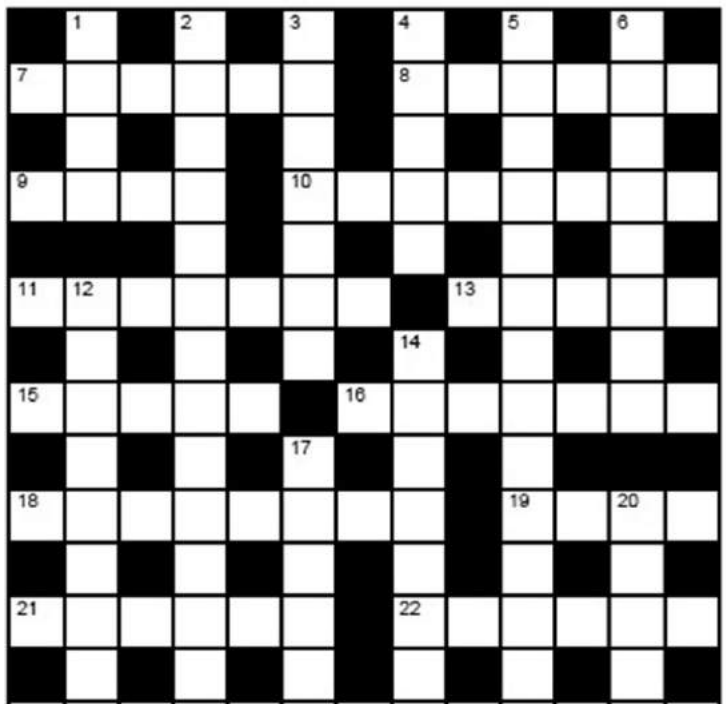

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Rubberstamped. 8 Folderol. 9 Inch. 10 Eremite. 12 Peril. 14 Agave. 16 Consign. 19 Gong. 20 Encroach. 22 Carrier pigeon.

Down: 1 Ouzo. 2 Ibidem. 3 Pro rata. 4 Stall. 5 Umpire. 6 Fetching. 11 Regional. 13 Concept. 15 Vagary. 17 Stodgy. 18 Bevel. 21 Coot.

ACROSS

7 Surprise attack (6)
8 The body of work of a painter, composer or author (6)
9 Small, two winged fly resembling a mosquito (4)
10 Cud-chewing ungulate mammal such as cattle or deer (8)
11 Cavalcade (7)
13 Small hut or cottage for labourers or use as a mountain refuge (particularly in Scotland) (5)
15 Medieval sporting contest on horseback (5)
16 Chests for holding valuables (7)
18 Loyal and reliable (8)
19 Travel aimlessly (4)
21 Inflict harm in retribution (6)
22 Capital city (6)

DOWN

1 Portent, sign (4)
2 An organ in the body that secretes hormones directly into the bloodstream (8,5)
3 Membrane-lined cavity behind the nose and mouth (7)
4 Punctuation mark (5)
5 Religious sacrifice or slang term for an over-cooked meal (5,8)
6 Wooden board or platter for serving or carving food (8)
12 Failing to produce intended result (8)
14 Every four weeks? (7)
17 Large bird of the crow family (5)
20 Nautical greeting (4)

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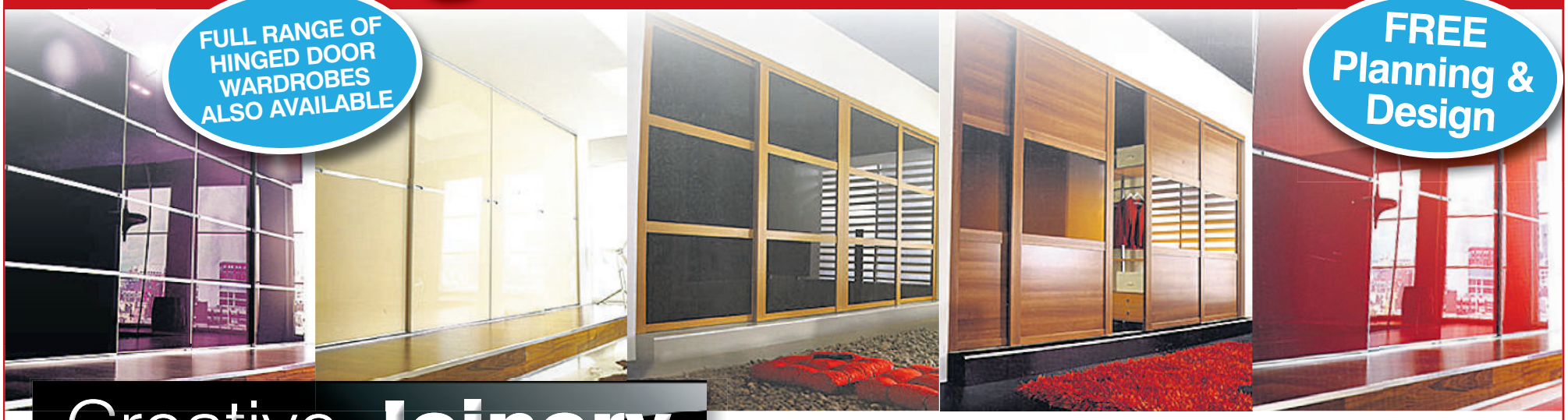

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Spring sunshine brings sports car enthusiasts out in force for meeting

THE advent of some spring weather at the weekend was welcomed by the West Lancs MG Owners Club with 22 members in attendance for the meeting on Sunday, March 13 rounded off with lunch at the Farmers Arms in Bispham.

Spokesman, Steve Kirton said: "As it was such a fine early spring day with the sun shining, the drivers of eight MGs turned out to enjoy the social occasion and there were two MGB-GTs, a RV8, a MGF, two MGAs, a MGB and a MGTF.

We would love to welcome anyone who lives in West Lancs or surrounding areas with a classic car who would like to join us having social nights out, going to car shows and events and just generally having a bit of fun while raising money for deserving charities.

"We meet at Briars Hall Lathom on the third Thursday of every month at 8pm."

For more information visit www.westlancsmg.co.uk or check out their Facebook page, West Lancs MG Owners.

Members of the West Lancs MG Owners Club at their first spring meeting

New nursery set to open at 'outstanding' primary school

A BALLOON release will mark the opening of a new nursery at an 'outstanding' West Lancashire primary school tomorrow (Thursday, March 17).

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

The nursery at Richard Durnings Primary School, Bispham will cater for youngsters from three years upwards until they reach primary school age.

Among guests at the event at the school in Chorley Road will be Lancashire County Council's new school advisor, Ruth Ross and chair of governors, Geoff Monk, along with local families and pupils and friends of the school.

Prospective and current parents are invited to arrive for coffee at 9am and will be given the opportunity to look around the nursery before the balloon release is staged at 10am.

The school was judged to be outstanding in all areas by Ofsted in their most recent inspection.

Headteacher, Catherine Hodgson, said: "Our new nursery school provision will give pre-school children living in the village and surrounding areas a fantastic introduction to school life and make the transition to reception as easy and natural as possible.

"All nursery children are included in the full life of school and enjoy regular trips out of the school environment.

"The nursery and reception children work and play together in the Early Years classroom with carefully planned activities linked to their individual needs and levels of development.

"All children have daily access to their own outdoor garden which they help to develop and change according to the curriculum and their individual interests.

"We're really proud of our new nursery and we are all looking forward to formally introducing new and existing families to our excellent facilities and friendly staff."

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You will have the opportunity to view our beautifully furnished show apartments and enjoy the beautiful landscaped gardens. Also we will be holding a raffle in support of a local charity, the Brighter Future Workshops.

Homeowners at Coronation Court on County Road in Ormskirk are developing a wonderful and friendly sense of community with regular events and are keen to welcome new neighbours.

Two brand new apartments have been chosen as the March Apartments of the Month, both offering incentives for reservations taken in March 2016. If you reserve either apartment 34 or 37 before or on Thursday 31st March an additional discount will be offered*

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*Ts&Cs apply. Offer only available on apartment 34 and apartment 37 Coronation Court, Ormskirk for new reservations which are reserved by Thursday 31st March, 2016 and legally complete on or before Thursday 30th June, 2016. Offer can only be redeemed against the list price of apartment 34 or apartment 37 or against our 100% Part Exchange service. Agreement is subject to survey, contact and terms and conditions of the Part Exchange company. Part Exchange is capped at £350,000 for dependent properties, any amount over this limit is subject to negotiation. The apartments are sold as seen and subject to availability. Offer may be withdrawn at anytime. See Sales Executive for more details. Written details available upon request. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Visit www.mccarthyandstone.co.uk for more details. Registered Regional Office: McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Limited, Unit 3, Edward Court, Altrincham Business Park, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 5GL. Registered Head Office: McCarthy & Stone Retirement Lifestyles Limited, 4th Floor, 100 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth, Dorset BH8 8AQ.
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Touring one woman show coming to Arts Centre

A TOURING one woman show, written by and starring Phina Oruche who played supermodel Liberty Baker in ITV1's Footballers' Wives is coming to The Arts Centre at Edge Hill University.

Spending more than two decades of her life taking on other people's identities - first as a New York fashion model and later as an award-winning TV actress - has taken its toll on Phina.

Her new one woman show,Identity Crisis, was written as part of her Masters degree at Ormskirk's Edge Hill University and although it is based upon her own life story, it explores identity struggles that are common to all of us.

Through its low key staging, the show provides a vehicle for Phina's larger than life characterisations. From Amy Tan, a working class white girl with a Scouse brow and a taste for spray tans and black lads to Antonio de Silva, a football crazy Italian living in LA who misses their mum, Phina brings a colourful cast of eight characters to life, all of whom are having their own identity crises.

Meet Mary Middle Class, widowed in her 50s, she now picks up men at funerals, Rasta, mixed race, dreadlocked, Liverpool born and bred but talks like a yardie and Mama Nukku, loosely based on her own Nigerian mother.

The tale begins with the real life story of the sudden death of Phina's 19-year-old niece in her house in 2011

Phina Oruche

and the ensuing press intrusion. Phina said: "After years of identity struggles, writing this show has given me the freedom to play characters I would never get cast as.

"All of my characters are vulnerable, flawed and struggling with who they are and this makes them very human. "Many of my characters are working class and are portraying voices and experiences that are often absent on stage and screen."

The show can be seen at The Arts Centre on Tuesday, April 12 at 7.30pm.

Prenger to star in classic Lloyd Webber musical

ANDREW Lloyd Webber and Don Black's classic musical Tell Me On A Sunday starring Jodie Prenger, is coming to the Liverpool Empire Theatre on Monday, May 23.

The show charts the romantic misadventures of a young English girl in New York in the heady days of the 1980's. Brimming with optimism, she seeks success and love. But as she weaves her way through the maze of the city and her own anxieties, frustrations and heartaches she begins to wonder whether she's been looking for love in all the wrong places. This iconic musical, with an original score, features the chart-topping Take That Look Off Your Face and the title track Tell Me On A Sunday.

Jodie Prenger is probably best known for winning the role of Nancy in Cameron Mackintosh's West End production of Oliver! through the BBC television series I'd Do Anything.

During her run in the show at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane she received both critical and public acclaim for her portrayal of the role.

The Illegal Eagles are coming to Southport

Illegal Eagles to make a flying visit to theatre

LONG established as the World's Official No.1 Eagles' tribute, The Illegal Eagles make a return to Southport Theatre this Saturday (March 19).

Promising more of their tight harmonies, acute attention to detail and showmanship, this is not just a night for fans of the Eagles, but for those of great music and musicianship.

The band's ability to recreate the distinctive sound of the Eagles, has won them mass acclaim on an international level.

Founder Phil Aldridge leads the show into its third decade shoulder to shoulder with Al Vosper, Keith Atack, Garreth Hicklin, Greg Webb and brand new bass player and lead vocalist, Trev Newnham.

Now with four lead vocalists, the 2016 production introduces a new repertoire of songs, complementing the ever-present classics such as: New Kid in Town, Tequila Sunrise, Hotel California, Take It Easy, Lyin' Eyes, Life in the Fast Lane, Take it to the Limit, and many more.

This latest production also features a special tribute to the late Glenn Frey, one of the original founding members of the Eagles.

For more information log on to www.atgtickets.com/southport

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PEOPLE are being invited to flex their art muscles at Tate Liverpool's Art Gym.

Visitors to Tate Liverpool will feel the burn when they take part in Art Gym, a programme of free drop-in classes, lectures and workshops that embrace art, design, music and film.

From Monday 7–Thursday, March 31 Tate Collective Liverpool, a youth art initiative, and Turner Prize winners Assemble are giving the public the opportunity to pump their creative muscles.

Inspired by a traditional gym, Art Gym offers everyone of all ages and abilities the chance to create a personal programme designed to learn new creative skills or develop existing ones.

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7 MAY • CHARLIE & CHOC FACTORY
21 MAY • KINKY BOOTS • MOTOWN
4 JUN • THE STORY OF TOM JONES
18 JUN • SUNNY AFTERNOON • JERSEY BOYS
2 JUL • KINKY BOOTS • BEAUTIFUL
23 JUL • ALADDIN • LION KING
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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• See Scotsman at York Railway Museum & Bronte Steam Train Ride
SAT 23 APR, 7 MAY

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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD Admission included
9 JUL FAIRFORD AIR TATTOO
9 JUL DUXFORD FLYING LEGENDS
16 JUL FARNBOROUGH
13 AUG RED BULL AIR RACE
10 SEP DUXFORD AIR SHOW

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2 DAYS £119.95
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
• Admission included plus visits to Science & Natural History Museums
SAT 2, 23 APR, 7, 21 MAY, 25 JUN, 2, 16, 30 JUL

LLANDUDNO & CHESTER DOUBLE BILL TRIBUTE WEEKEND
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15 APR ELVIS (FRI) / TOM JONES (SAT)
22 APR ABBA (FRI) / KYLIE (SAT)
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28 OCT ELTON JOHN (FRI) / ROD STEWART (SAT)
18 NOV LIONEL RICHIE (FRI) / DIANA ROSS (SAT)

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OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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SAT 26 MAR, 28 MAY, 2, 30 JUL, 6, 27 AUG

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5 DAYS FROM £179.95
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FAIRS & SALES

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Saturday 19th March
Stall Holders arrive from 7.30am
Trading 8.30am - 1pm
Indoor hall with table £10
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At Ralph's Wife's Lane, Banks, Nr Southport PR9 8ER
A565 Tarleton to Southport Road, turn at Small Banks Roundabout into Banks Road and we are 1/2 mile on left.
Pitches £10.00 (per car) - Transits POA

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EVERY SUNDAY
BURSCOUGH AIRFIELD
(HARDSTANDING SITE)
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Pitches £12.00 per car - Transits P.O.A.

BOTH VERY BUSY VENUES
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Tel. upto 8.00pm any evening or after 5.00am on actual day of sale.
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ATTIC SALE
SATURDAY 19TH MARCH 2016
Lydiate Parish Hall · Southport Road· Lydiate
L31 43Q on the 300 bus route
(near the Scotch Piper on A5147)
8am Sellers • 9am to 1pm Buyers
Refreshments • Admission 30p • Free Parking
To book a stall telephone 07955 901681

EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON™
HOTEL & SPA LIVERPOOL
WEDDING SHOW
SUNDAY 20TH MARCH
11.00AM - 4.00PM
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FREE ENTRY
2 stunning catwalk shows 12.30pm & 2.30pm.
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THEATRES

WHAT'S ON 2016
MARCH
THU 17th
THE BOOTLEG BEATLES
All the classic Beatles hits!
SAT 19th
THE ILLEGAL EAGLES
The world's official No 1 Eagles tribute
SUN 20th (12pm-3pm)
WEDDING FAYRE
Free entry, over 30 local exhibitors
APRIL
FRI 1st
THE HOLLIES
SAT 9th
BACK TO BACHARACH
Magic moments from the Burt Bacharach songbook
SAT 16th
THE KING OF POP - THE LEGEND CONTINUES
Moonwalk the night away with the leading Michael Jackson tribute
FRI 22nd
MAGIC - A KIND OF QUEEN
SAT 23rd
TELL ME ON A SUNDAY Starring JODIE PRENGER
Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's classic musical
MAY
SAT 7th
THE SIMON AND GARFUNKEL STORY
SAT 14th
THE PROCLAIMERS
FRI 20th
ONE NIGHT OF ELVIS: LEE 'MEMPHIS' KING
SAT 21st (Floral Hall)
NABBA NORTH WEST BODYBUILDING FINALS 2016
See the finest bodybuilding physiques in the country
FRI 27th
DANCING IN THE STREETS
TUE 31st
(3pm)
SING-A-LONG-A FROZEN
(7:30pm)
SING-A-LONG-A DIRTY DANCING
JUNE
FRI 3rd
AN EVENING WITH CHARLIE LANDSBOROUGH
SAT 11th
THE RAT PACK VEGAS SPECTACULAR SHOW
FRI 17th
PUPPETRY OF THE PENIS
SAT 18th
KEN DODD
WED 29th (Floral Hall)
(2.30pm)
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*Subject to booking & transaction fees

EVENTS - OUT & ABOUT

EASTER Sunday LUNCH
AT HURLSTON HALL
EVERY BUNNY'S welcome
Celebrate this Easter with a 3 course meal overlooking our beautiful golf course. All for just £19.50, including an Easter egg for each child.
HURLSTON HALL
01704 840 400 hurlstonhall.co.uk
Hurlston Hall, Hurlston Lane, Scarisbrick, Lancashire L40 8HB

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...TO A THREE COURSE LUNCH, AFTERNOON TEA AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Experience Ladies Day at Hurlston Hall for £35 per head
Friday 8th April
Enjoy all the fun of the races with live races from Aintree.
Best dressed competition.
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Hurlston Hall, Hurlston Lane, Scarisbrick, Lancashire L40 8HB

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT

Good Friday 25th March

Brian Woods
SIMPLY RED Tribute

Treat the family...
EASTER SUNDAY

Two delicious courses from chef's
Sunday Lunch Menu only £13.99

Also look out for Chef's Special Easter Dessert

Booking Recommended

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Saturday 19th March 10am-1pm
at the Methodist Church, Alma Hill, Upholland WN8 0NR
Free Admission

BURSCOUGH ATTIC SALE
Grab a bargain this Sunday
SUNDAY 20th MARCH 10am - 3pm
Varied stalls, hot & cold refreshments
The Old Peoples Club L40 4BZ
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75 Stands 10am-4pm

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SUNDAY 20th March
9am to 2pm
Parbold Village Hall,
The Green, Parbold WN8 7DN
Jewellery, Antiques, Hot Food, Cards, Gifts, Toys, Crafts, Fancy Goods and Collectors Items
NEXT FLEA MARKET SUNDAY 24th APRIL

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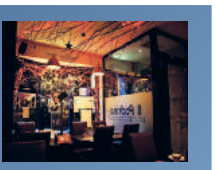

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Buy a single spirit GET A DOUBLE Plus MANY MORE promotions

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WEEKLY EVENTS

Tapas Tuesdays

Come and visit The Cricketers on Tuesdays for tapas with a Lancashire twist.
Boasting some of the best locally sourced ingredients from across Lancashire

Our Tapas Tuesdays offer a four item tapas bat for £8 (usually £11.50)

Fish and chip Fridays

Join us every Friday at The Cricketers for Fish and Chips.
Lager Battered Fresh Haddock, Mushy Peas and Homemade Tartar Sauce for only £7.

Add a glass of wine, or real ale to your meal for £2.

The perfect start to your weekend!
Every Friday from 15.00 until 18.00.

Pub Quiz

Challenge yourself with our weekly Pub quiz every Monday night 9pm till 10.30pm.

Hosted by our very own quiz master Ben Rawsthorne.

Entry is free and there are some fantastic prizes to be won.

LIVE MUSIC

in the bar on the last Friday of every month

UPCOMING EVENTS

Easter Weekend Menu

Special set menu for Easter Sunday/ Monday

2 courses for £15 | 3 Course for £18

Please have a look under the menu section on our website for details

GRAND NATIONAL BREAKFAST

Friday 8th & Saturday 9th April (served 9.30am till 11.45am)

Arrival Drink: Champagne, Bucks Fizz or The Cricketer's Bloody Mary

Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt

Breakfast Main - Choose From

Full English Breakfast | The Cricketers Eggs Benedict
Choice of Omelettes | Kedgeree
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Freshly Ground Coffee, Homemade Shortbread

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Booking essential

New Spring/Summer Menu *launching April 11th*

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SUPER SUNDAY ROAST ONLY £7.95

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- Fri 25th March Peter Kerrigan
- Sat 26th March Phil Jones
- Easter Sunday Peter Kerrigan
- Fri 1st April Sandy
- Sat 2nd April Robbie Collins (Eric Clapton, Sam Cook, Rod Stewart.)

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Cask Ale from £2.29

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10% OFF all food for the whole of March

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Sun 28th August £109
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*admission to races
*travel by coach

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Sat 26th November
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*2 nights half board @ Hilton Hotel, Bristol
*Entrance to Longleat House, Gardens & Festival of Light
* Visit to Bath Christmas Market
* Luxury Coach Travel

EDINBURGH CHRISTMAS MARKET
Sun 27th November
3 Days £129

LLANDUDNO
Special offer 2 days £79
Sun 10th April
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*1 night half board(Queens Hotel)
*Entertainment
*Coach Travel

Warner Breaks

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Mon 18th April 5 days £289

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ALVASTON HALL
Mon 9th May 3 days £159

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*Visit to Stratford upon Avon

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Sun 20th	Trafford Centre	£11.90
	Salford Quays	£11.90
Tue 22nd	Colwyn & Llandudno	£13.90
Wed 23rd	Lancaster Market & Barton Grange	£13.90
	EASTER WEKEND	
Fri 25th	Shrewsbury & Hot Cross Bun Cruise	£20.90
Sat 26th	City of Oxford	£19.90
Sun 27th	Llandudno	£13.90
Mon 28th	Grasmere & Ambleside	£15.90
Tue 29th	Emmerdale & Bronte Country inc tea & cake @ Woolpack	£19.90
Wed 30th	Leek market & The World of Wedgwood	£13.90

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MAGNA HAITI 15 gears, good cond. £40. 097724 825602

CLOTHING

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VICTORIAS SECRETS cashmere grey joggers brand new without tags size m/m 12-14 first to see will buy bargain £25 07518929646

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CLOTHING

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LADIES COAT long tweed winter, tan and white, very heavy, worn once, size 12/14 £50ono. 07977 344241

SPRING JACKET beige lined, ladies size 14 brand new £12ono. brass curtain pole, as new £8. 01704 579119

2 X Hackett caps new 1 white 1 biegh great for the summer bargain £10 01515319425/07773242918

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FAUX FUR short jacket, light fawn, size 12/14, ex cond £15ono. 01704 579119

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SAMSUNG GALAXY tab3 10.1 black rotating cover by Forefront cases. New/unused still in packaging £3 01704220356

APPLE IPHONE5 black, 16gb, no marks, no scratches, with charger and impact rubber case. £100 Cal 01515466297

PRINTER for home and small office, pima model £10. 07402 295933

SATA HDD 160GB Sata Hard Disc Tested £10 07970 040237

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HARDWOOD DOORS 80x32 £20. 78x33 with lock £30. 78x33 with lock £30. Excellent Condition. 2 Mahogany Posts, 4x4, 7ft long £8 each. Hardwood Shelf 6ft x 6inch x 1inch £5. Used timber 70ft 3x2 £15. 01695 571291

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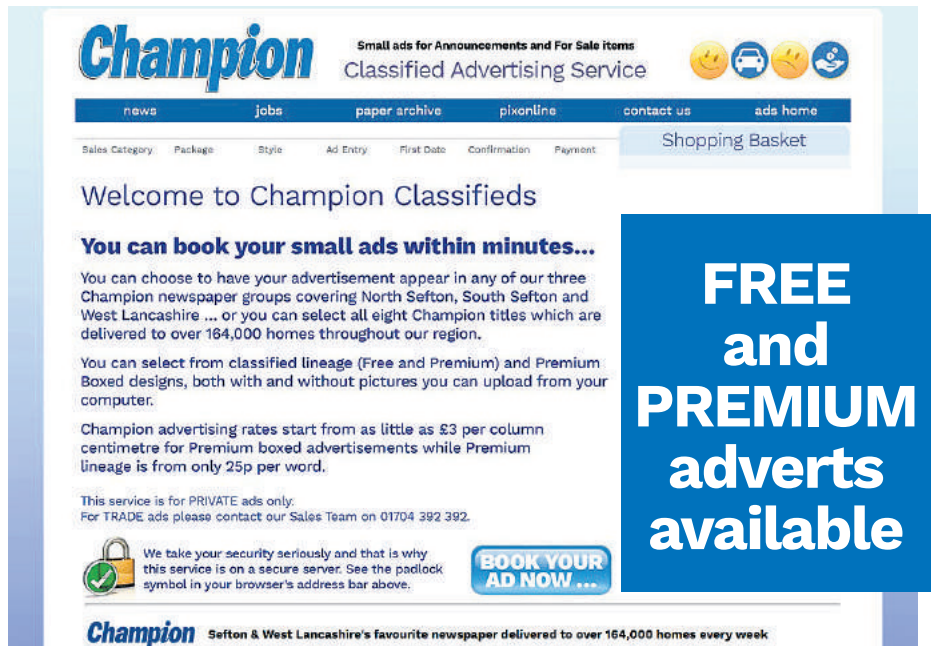
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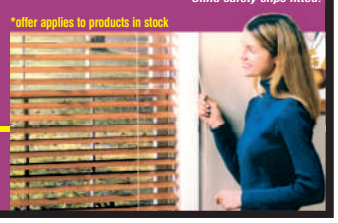
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COFFEE SET Tea/coffee set silver plated with milk jug sugar basin and tray. Keeps liquid very hot £15 01704564732

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SMALL TEAK chest of drawers £6. Wood coffee table £8. Round teak garden table, 4 new folding chairs £80. 01704 870312

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TABLE TOP oven by Silvercrest with grill and rotisserie, never been used, still in box with instructions, £40 01704 638452

DINING TABLE extending and 4 leather chairs - light beech cost £1600 from Stokers, ex cond. Offers 07765 850104

INDESIT WASHER 18myjs old, still like new, surplus to requirements only £60. 01704 380320 or 07915 226347

HOUSE AND HOME

GOURMET TEA machine by IQ innovations. unwanted gift still boxed £25. 01704 380320 or 07915 226347

BAR/KITCHEN CHAIRS red and chrome, adjustable height, good cond, both for £60. 07977 3444241

LEATHER SOFA from DFS, 3 seater, tan colour £90. Glass TV stand £15. Fireplace fet and trim £15. 07786 298207

TWIN TUB modern plastic, ideal for for caravan, needs filler type, any reasonable offers considered. 01704 840700

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HOUSE AND HOME

FIRESIDE CHAIR high back, brown £30. 2 wheel shopping trolley £10. holiday trolley as new £10. 0151 526 5226

OFFICE DESK 2 Drawer Office desk and chair £65.00 ono 01695 571930Mob07734054581

FRIDGE FREEZER Hot point frost free fridge freezer. Very good condition. £70 01704211416

SIDEBOARD Next Cambridge Light small sideboard. As new. £150 01704211416

LEATHER Stokers Dark Brown settee 2/3 seater. As new. £220 01704211416

CHAIR Fireside comfy chair. Very good condition . £40 01704211416

CHAIR Beige fireside chair,very firm cushion. Very good condition . £60 01704211416

BED SIDE set of drawers, pine effect, good condition £15 07851 192684

MODERN TALL shelved cupboard, pine effect, vgc, £30 07851 192684

3+2 SEATER settees, soft cream leather, lovely condition £150 ono 01704 513379

GAMMA FAUX suede blue headboard for double bed, good condition £30 01704 879324

3 PIECE suite, comfortable, good condition £100 0151 5202768

GUEST BED Metal folding, buyer collects £10 cash 07904 421059

GAS COOKER with double oven timer clock. Good condition £60 07947 144728

LIGHT FITTING Tiffany, beautiful ceiling shade, ex cond £40 07765 850104

COFFEE TABLE modern. light oak effect, 21.5" x 35.5", good cond £8ono 01704 231443

TWO HEADBOARDS 4' 6", 2 deckchairs adjustable, all for £30. 07548 245695

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GREY LUGGAGE case, quality tripp, extending, zip top, 29" x 19" vgc £20ono. 01704 579119

DINING TABLE large wooden + 4 chairs £70ono. 01695 577176

HENRY VACUUM with hose, lance and brush, good order £36 0151 527 2392

KITCHEN TABLE + 4 padded chairs 1200 x 800 extends to 1800. 01695 420000

STACKING CHAIRS grey plastic, in good cond. £5 each. 01695 4200000

RISE AND recliner chair, terracotta, brand new £350ono. 01704 563558

CONDENSER DRYER Hoover, new from currys Jan 2015. little used £100ono. 01704 572037

SINGLE BED quilt set with base sheet in lilac shade as new may deliver £8 01515263851

SOLID OAK 4 dining chairs £100. Call Paul 07884 186171

VAX RAPIDE carpet shampooer/ cleaner £40 0151 5269678

DYSON upright hoover, £50 01772 813954

FIRE SURROUND dark polished wood £10 07955 4343571

EPSON PRINTER £10. 07402 295933

MISC

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EE WIFI DEVICE Pay As You Go, 3 months old, as new condition. Active Sim Card 4.8gb expires 22/4/16 £50ono. Contact Karen 07449582274

OLD PICNIC SET A Sirram backelite four setting picnic set including cups, plates, dishes and cutlery, also two metal flask and two sandwich boxes. All contained in leather look carrying case. Bargain at.£39.00 07530562650

SAMSUNG PHONE BATTERY Genuine brand new Samsung 3.8 volt Li-on smart phone battery. Model number EB.L1M-7FLUCSTD for Samsung Galaxy phones. Use as replacement or spare.£8.00 01704 546978

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WANTED DYSON cinetic animal cylinder Hoover / vacuum cleaner new or as new cash upto £200 depending on age etc 07743101819

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CABIN/TRAVELLER BUSINESS case on wheels with extending handle with separate apartments for laptop files and accessories £22 o.n.o. 01515263851

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IPHONE 3GS unlocked smartphone, black, 16GB, good condition and full working order, charger and cable £55 01704831977

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MISC

WINE MAKING jars £3. Large oval wooden frame £25. Strong folding work bench £12. 01695 574419

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BELLA VITA electric bath lift, hardly used, complete with operating instructions, can be seen working £200. 01695 27622

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WALKING FRAME with wheels 48 x 48 x 84cm £32. Single bed headboard, white metal, 60cm H x 94cm W £25. 01704 871354

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Good condition.£15. 01704 873774

MOTHER AND BABY

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TOW-BAR Hyundai Trajet tow-bar, tow-ball, electrics. Good robust condition . £80 07925599600

MOTORING

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ESTATE AGENTS

Aintree Village

Stoneyhurst Avenue
- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- Extended and Improved
- Stylish Quality Kitchen

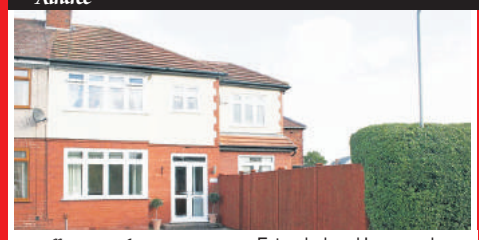
REDUCED £214,950

Aintree Village

Altway
- 3 Bedroom Sefton Semi
- EPC Rating D
- Ground Floor Extension
- Large Rear Garden

OIRO £200,000

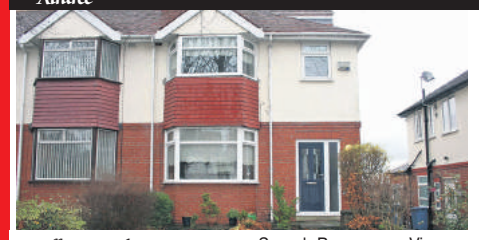
Aintree



Melling Road
- 3 bed semi-detached
- EPC Rating D
- Extended and Improved
- 3 Reception Rooms

REDUCED £188,000

Aintree



Melling Road
- 4 Bedroom End Townhouse
- EPC Rating E
- Superb Racecourse Views
- Stylish Kitchen

£164,950

Aintree Village

Aintree Lane
- Detached
- EPC Rating G
- 4 Bedrooms plus Loft Room
- 2 Bathrooms

REDUCED £480,000

Melling

Iris Park Walk
- Extended 4 Bed Detached
- EPC Rating D
- Exceptional Finish
- Balcony with Canal Views

OIRO £335,000

Fazakerley

Higher Lane
- 6 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating E
- Impressively Extended
- Fantastic Basement

OIRO £299,995

Fazakerley

Moor Lane
- 3 Bedroom Detached
- EPC Rating E
- Sought After Location
- Conservatory

£279,950

Aintree Village

Canterbury Close
- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- Loft Conversion
- Conservatory

£239,950

Fazakerley

Barlows Lane
- 4 Bedroom Detached
- EPC Rating C
- Excellent Finish
- Lovely Gardens

Offers over £239,950

Aintree

Warbreck Moor
- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- EPC Rating D
- Extensively Extended
- 4 Reception Rooms

£225,000

Melling

Ledsons Grove
- 4 Bedroom Detached
- EPC Rating C
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory

£214,950

Aintree Village

Aintree Lane
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating E
- Extended and Improved
- Quality Fixtures & Fittings

OIRO £195,000

Fazakerley

Garden Lane
- 3 Bed Semi Detached
- EPC Rating F
- 2 Reception Rooms
- uPVC Double Glazing

£169,950

Aintree Village

Altway
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- Impressively Extended
- No Chain

£164,950

Aintree Village

Altway
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating E
- Extended
- Two Reception Rooms

£164,950

Melling

Columbine Close
- 3 Bedroom Townhouse
- EPC Rating C
- Two En Suites
- Plus Ground Floor Shower

£164,950

Melling

Prescot Road
- 4 Bedroom End Terraced
- EPC Rating F
- Semi Rural Location
- New Kitchen

£159,995

Aintree

Foxhunter Drive
- 3 Bedroom Detached
- EPC Rating D
- Conservatory
- No Chain

£159,950

Aintree Village

Oriel Drive
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- Extended and Improved
- Conservatory

£159,950

Aintree Village

Lowther Avenue
- 3 Bedroom Sefton Semi
- EPC Rating D
- No Chain
- Recent Rewire

£159,950

Aintree Village

Mostyn Avenue
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- No Chain
- Extended & Improved

£154,999

Aintree Village

Oriel Drive
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating G
- Extended
- Good Sized Rear Garden

REDUCED £152,500

Aintree Village

Radley Drive
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- No Chain
- Extended

REDUCED £149,999

Aintree Village

Oriel Drive
- 3 bed semi detached
- EPC Rating C
- Extended
- Luxurious Bathroom

Offers over £149,995

Aintree Village

Keble Drive
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rarting E
- Extended
- Two Reception Rooms

£149,950

Aintree Village

Bradfield Avenue
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

£144,950

Aintree Village

Oriel Drive
- 3 Bed End Townhouse
- EPC Rating C
- Extensive Rear Gardens
- Stylish Bathroom

£139,950

Aintree Village

Sandown Park Road
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating E
- New Boiler
- Beautifully Presented

£139,950

Aintree

Sherwoods Lane
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- No Chain
- uPVC Double Glazing

NEW £130,000

Aintree Village

Oriel Close
- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- EPC Rating D
- No Chain
- uPVC Double Glazing

Offers over £129,950

Netherton

Stand Park Avenue
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating F
- No Chain
- uPVC Double Glazing

NEW £119,950

Aintree

Melling Road
- 3 Bedroom Terraced
- EPC Rating E
- No Chain
- Racecourse Views

REDUCED £119,950

Fazakerley

Barlows Lane
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- EPC Rating D
- En Suite Shower
- Kitchen/Diner

REDUCED £110,000

Kirkby

Riesling Drive
- 3 Bedroom End Townhouse
- EPC Rating C
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

OIEO £105,000

Orrell Park

Dove Road
- Three bed semi detached
- EPC Rating E
- In need of modernisation
- Two Reception Rooms

£104,950

Fazakerley

Rame Close
- 3 Bedroom Semi
- EPC Rating C
- New Kitchen & Bathroom
- New uPVC Double Glazing

Reduced to £104,950

Aintree

Deauville Road
- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- EPC Rating D
- Two Reception Rooms
- uPVC Double Glazing

£99,950

Aintree

Rugby Road
- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- EPC Rating E
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

OIEO £99,950

Walton

Carnation Road
- Semi-Detached Bungalow
- EPC Rating D
- Large Conservatory
- Good Sized Plot

£94,950

Fazakerley

Amanda Road
- 3 Bedroom Townhouse
- EPC Rating C
- Conservatory
- Garage

£84,999

Fazakerley

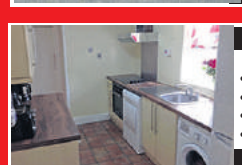
Drake Crescent
- 2 Bed End Townhouse
- EPC Rating D
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom
- En Suite

£84,950

Fazakerley

Drake Crescent
- 3 Bedroom Townhouse
- EPC Rating C
- No Chain
- Modern Kitchen & Bathroom

£82,500



Walton

Gladstone Road
- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- EPC Rating E
- uPVC Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

OIEO £74,950

Bootle

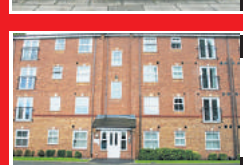
Malvern Road
- 3 Bedroom Terrace
- EPC Rating F
- Original Features
- Gas Central Heating

£74,950

Netherton

Marie Curie Avenue
- 3 Bedroom Townhouse
- EPC Rating C
- No Chain
- uPVC Double Glazing

£67,500



Walton

Mater Close
- 2 Bedroom Apartment
- EPC Rating B
- En Suite
- First Floor

£66,000

Fazakerley

Moor Court
- Studio Apartment
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- 1st Floor
- Secure Parking

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Alternatively, for further information please telephone Mrs Wincup (01704) 841830. Previous applicants may apply.
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Informal discussion: West Lanc's Domiciliary Service on 01695 587433.

Application details: Go to http://jobs.lancashire.gov.uk
Closing date: 21 March 2016.

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- *Round includes:* Thompson Av, Latham Av, Taylor Av, Hall Brow Cl, Wigan Rd (part), Crosshall Brow (part)
- *Round includes:* Smithy Lane, Moorfield Lane

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Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

MCDONNELL THOMAS
(Tom)
19th March 2015

A million times I've needed you, a million times I've cried, if love alone could have saved you, you never would have died. In life I loved you dearly, in death I love you still. In my heart you hold a place, no one else can fill. It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone. Part of me went with you, the day God took you home.
From your loving wife Pauline & daughter Carol & family.

ALLEN JOAN
17th March 2011

Forever in our thoughts,
we love and miss you always.
Terry, Annette, Paula & Mark.
xxxxx

DEATHS

BROUGHTON KENNETH BRIAN
12th March
aged 83 years.

After a long illness,greatly loved by his wife Joan, Children and Grandchildren. Funeral to be held 22nd March at 11.30am at Greenacres Woodland Burials, Rainford. Family flowers only please. If desired, donations to the Renal Unit at Chorley Hospital.

MCQUADE DANNY
3rd March 2016

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Mavis, Billy and

family

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BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

VIOLET DEAKIN
16/03/1940 - 02/03/2016

Happy Birthday Nan/Ma, our 1st one without you. But today we give you back to God and back into the arms of your forever love. It's not goodbye but see you later, until we're all together again, love always
XXX
Happy Birthday Mummy/Nanny your first birthday back with Dad in such a long time but our first one without you! Hope you've having a blast up there. We all love you to the stars and back
XXX
Much loved Mum, Nan, Auntie, Sister, Great nan and friend,
XXX

IN MEMORIAM

SHAREA ANGEL HOPE HAY
13/03/2012

Happy 4th birthday my Beautiful Baby Angel, they say the pain gets better with time, that is not the case. But each day I am forced to live without you in this life I'm one day closer to holding you in the next.
I love and miss you always, my Beautiful Ladybird Angel, love mummy X

Sharea it may only be 4 years to everyone else but it feels like 4 lifetimes to me, gone but forever in my heart and thoughts, lots of love Grandad xx

Sharea, Happy birthday baby girl I know you will be dancing on the clouds with nanny and grandad we miss you so very much all our love and more princess XXXXX

Much loved and missed Daughter, Grandaughter, Great Grandaughter, Niece and Cousin X

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JAMIESON STUART EDWARD

George and Barbara would like to thank family and friends for their expressions of sympathy and support following the sad loss of Stuart, their dearly beloved son and also the generous donations to Rethink Mental Illness Southport.

BOLTON JACK

The family of the late Jack Bolton would like to thank relatives, friends, neighbours and Southport Football Club for all the sympathy and support shown at this sad time. Thank you to Rev Martin Abrams for the lovely service and also to Carl Howard and team of Howard's Funeral Directors for a very personal, professional and caring funeral. Thank you for all the generous donations to the British Heart Foundation.

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DEATHS

STEPHENSON GEORGE
12th March 2016
Peacefully in hospital, aged 87 years of Ormskirk

The dearly loved Husband of the late Elsie, loving Dad of Ian, dear Father-in-law of Pam, devoted Grandad of Claire and Pete and Great Grandad to George and Harry.
All enquiries to H Hardman & Co. Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk. Tel 01695 581769/720012

DEATHS

SOWOOD BETTY Nee ASHCROFT
1st March 2016
Peacefully in hospital aged 83 years of Ormskirk and in memory of her husband NORMAN "63 Happy years"

Donations in their memory may be sent for Queenscourt Hospice to H Hardman & Co, Independent Family Funeral Directors, Elizabeth House, 57A Cottage lane, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 581769 01695 720012

LEATHERBARROW JOHN
7th March 2016
Aged 84 Years

Devoted Husband of Teresa, much loved Dad of Anne, Father-in-law of Dave, adored Grandad of William, Jess and Matthew, loving Brother-in-law of Margaret. John will be very sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium (Pippin Street, Burscough L40 7SP) on Thursday 17th March at 1:45pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice or Motor Neurone Disease Association. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

HOWARD THOMAS (TOM)
6th March 2016
Aged 88 years.

Peacefully in Sunningdale Nursing Home. He will be sadly missed by all his family.
Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 18th March at 3:20pm. Donations in lieu of flowers are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

SWARBRICK ROBERT WINSTON (BOB)
10th March 2016
Aged 88 Years

Peacefully in Thomas Henshaw Court. Beloved Husband of the late Kitty, dearly loved Dad of Shirley and Mary, Father-in-law of Norman and Steve, treasured Grandad of Robert, Claire, Charlotte and Jade, Great-Grandad of Max, Amelia and Lily. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service at St Peter's Parish Church, Birkdale on Monday 21st March at 2:15pm followed by committal at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Thomas Henshaw Court (Minibus Fund). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

McHUGH KAREN (Lal)
8th March 2016
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 57 years.

Devoted Mum of Martin and Kieran, much loved Daughter of Lenny (Deceased) and Norma, will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 18th March at 1:45PM. Flowers or donations if desired for Alder Hey Childrens Hospital.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane: Tel:01695 559868

CORNMELL HENRY (Harry)
9th March 2016
Peacefully at home
aged 78 years

Loving Husband of Sylvia and devoted Dad of Jamie, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service will take place at Anfield Crematorium on Monday 21st March at 10:00AM.
Family flowers only please by request donations if desired for Clatterbridge Hospital.
All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NOTICE OF VARIATION
PERMIT PARKING CHARGES IN BURNLEY, FYLDE, RIBBLE VALLEY AND WEST LANCASHIRE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Lancashire County Council in exercise of its powers under Section 46A of the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984** (as amended) and all other enabling powers, give notice of variation in respect of the permit charges contained in the "Lancashire County Council (The Whole Of Lancashire) (Revocation and Designation Of On Street Parking Charges) Order 2015" and as set out in the schedule below.
This notice of variation relates to every on street parking place in which permit holders may park and is situated in Burnley, Fylde, Ribble Valley and West Lancashire. For full details of the specific locations of these bays please email ocetro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk
These charges will be increased with effect from the 9th April 2016.

Reference LSG4/894.1567/RH3
Ian Young, Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services
Dated this 16 March 2016.

Schedule: Permit Parking Charges

District	Permit allocation	Current Charge	Proposed allocation	Proposed Charge
Burnley (7 schemes)	1st Resident	£15.60	2 Resident	£25.00 per permit
	2nd & 3rd Resident	£26.00		
	1 Visitor	Free	2 Visitor	
Fylde (1 scheme)	2 Resident	£5.00	2 Resident	£25.00 per permit
	2 multi-use visitor	£5.00	2 Annual Visitor	
Ribble Valley (1 scheme)	1 Resident	£40.00	1 Resident	£25.00
West Lancs (3 schemes)	1 Resident	£25.00	1 Resident	£25.00 per permit
	1 Visitor	£10.00	1 Visitor	

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 that West Lancashire Borough Council has made a scheme of allowances payable to members of the Council, which comes into effect on 1 April 2016.

In making the Scheme the Council has had regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel as required by Regulation 3 of the abovementioned Regulations.

The Scheme commencing on 1 April 2016 does not provide for an increase in the Basic Allowance payable to Members of the Council and this will be fixed at £4,842 for a 4 year period until 31 March 2020. All other rates of Allowances will remain the same as those paid during 2015/16, with the addition of a Special Responsibility (SRA) of £2421 for the Chairman of Audit & Governance Committee, a uniform rate of SRA of £4,842 for Cabinet Members and a reduced SRA for the Chairman of Planning Committee of £4842 (from £5,810).

The Scheme is available for inspection by members of the public during normal office hours (between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays) at the Council's offices at 52 Derby Street Ormskirk. Copies may be purchased on payment of 50 pence per sheet. The Scheme can also be accessed via the Council's website – www.westlancs.gov.uk.

Dated: 16 March 2016

Terry Broderick
Borough Solicitor
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk
West Lancashire, L39 2DF
01695 577177
www.westlancs.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2016/0219/OHL Proposed new wooden pole and stay at Myrtle Hall Farm, Prescot Road, Aughton.
The proposed development affects a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 applies.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2015/1102/FUL Demolition of the existing gatehouse and erection of a replacement gatehouse and associated road works at Pilkington Technology Centre, Hall Lane, Lathom.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.
Application No: 2016/0076/FUL New extraction system to existing kitchen at Star Inn, 60 Roby Mill, Up Holland.
Application No: 2016/0233/FUL First floor rear extension at 16 Wheat Lane, Lathom.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI
Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 16th March 2016
PDNOT889

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(A570 ST HELENS ROAD, RUFF LANE, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC)
(TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF LIMITED WAITING PARKING BAY)
ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over the following lengths of highway in the Borough of West Lancashire
i. A570 St Helens Road in a North Westerly direction only from its junction with Small Lane to its junction with A570 Park Road
ii. Ruff Lane in a South Easterly direction only from its junction with A570 St Helens Road, to a point outside property no.1 Ruff Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0800 hours on Monday 21st March 2016 until 1630 hours on Friday 8th April 2016, or until completion of the works within this period
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closures is as follows:
i. A570 Knowsley Road – A577 Moor Street – A577 St Helens Road
ii. A570 St Helens Road - A570 Knowsley Road – Ruff Lane
4. And further, during the period of the said closure, the following existing limited waiting bays will be temporarily suspended
i. A570 St Helens Road from a point 30 metres south of its junction with Ruff Lane to a point 36 metres north of its junction with Small Lane
ii. A570 Knowsley Road from its junction with St. Helens Road to a point 20 metres north of its junction with St. Helens Road
iii. A570 Knowsley Road from a point 40 metres north of the centreline of Ruff Lane for a distance of 90 metres in a northerly direction.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to enable major gas main replacement works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Laura Padden, Highway Regulation and Inspection Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701
[Ref: HRiT/16/08/2211/arh]

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PCP Finance Example for an Adam 1.2i Jam 3dr*

Cash Price	£7,300
Customer Deposit	£129
Balance to Finance	£7,171
48 Monthly Payments	£129.86
Optional Final Payment	£2,656.25
Interest	£1,718.53
Total Amount Payable	£9,018.53
APR Representative	8.7%

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64 REG ASTRA GTC 1.4T SRI 3DR

11070 MILES

LOOKERS PRICE FROM £11,391

PCP Finance Example for an Astra GTC 1.4T SRi 3dr*

Cash Price	£11,391
Customer Deposit	£199
Balance to Finance	£11,192
48 Monthly Payments	£199.83
Optional Final Payment	£4,604.70
Interest	£3,004.54
Total Amount Payable	£14,395.54
APR Representative	9.5%

JUST £199 DEPOSIT & £199 PER MONTH

63 REG FORD C-MAX EST 1.0 ECOBOOST ZETEC 5DR

22265 MILES

LOOKERS PRICE ONLY £9,350

PCP Finance Example for a Ford C-Max Est 1.0 Ecoboost Zetec 5Dr*

Cash Price	£9,350
Customer Deposit	£169
Balance to Finance	£9,181
48 Monthly Payments	£169.47
Optional Final Payment	£3,825
Interest	£2,778.56
Total Amount Payable	£12,128.56
APR Representative	10.7%

JUST £169 DEPOSIT & £169 PER MONTH

64 REG CORSA 1.4 LIMITED EDITION 3DR

7184 MILES

LOOKERS PRICE ONLY £8,999

PCP Finance Example for a Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 3dr*

Cash Price	£9,350
Customer Deposit	£149
Balance to Finance	£9,201
48 Monthly Payments	£149.49
Optional Final Payment	£4,199.98
Interest	£2,174.50
Total Amount Payable	£11,524.50
APR Representative	8.1%

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A reckless minority are ruining it for the rest of the road users

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

BIKERS are more us than them. Devotees of all things two-wheeled are genuinely into their machinery, they'll meet up with likeminded folk at shows and they appreciate a journey is about so much more than the destination.

They also know something I've rarely experienced as a car nut. The stigma of being tarred with one broad sweep of a an angry community's brush, simply because a few idiots are going out there and ruining it for everyone else.

That's the pain I came away with after venturing out of *Champion*-land and reading one of the North Wales newspapers, in which frustrated farmers are teaming up with the local bobbies to condemn just about anyone who even thinks about driving on a certain trio of roads in the Conwy countryside for enjoyment's sake.

The sort of heavy-handed policing traditionally reserved for hedonists with Honda Fireblades and Suzuki Hayabusas is now being mooted for people with hot hatchbacks and Caterhams. Not without justification, mind; North Wales Police is apparently getting a bit fed up with groups of cars doing upwards of 90mph on their home turf!

All of which leaves me a tad pensive. I am one of the very people some of those farmers would probably like to see banned – I've driven the roads in question on many occasions in my Minis and Mazda MX-5s for no good reason other than to enjoy them.

It is 30 miles of some of Britain's most enjoyable motoring, where you can appreciate all the little nuances of the suspension set up and the smile-inducing way the steering chats excitedly to you through the corners. Yet here's the shocking thing - you can do all of that without breaking the 60mph speed limit.

The real problem's when you get thrillseekers tearing past in even quicker bits of kit, which is exactly what happened a few years ago on a petrol-head outing a few mates and I were on.

My MX-5, a Ford Racing Puma, a Volkswagen Polo G40 and a Metro GTi aren't exactly slouches – yet all four of our cars were overtaken by a Porsche Boxster S, a Mini Cooper Works GP and a tuned Civic Type R. We were doing 60mph, but for this trio the limit just wasn't enough.

I dread the idea of a 60mph road that can be enjoyed safely (and legally) being forced down to 40mph because of the idiots who insist on taking it at 100mph – and chances are they'll continue doing that speed anyway. I understand how bikers feel, because a reckless minority are ruining it for everyone else who loves great cars and wonderful roads.

Chances are if you're reading *The Champion* that you're not a Welsh farmer, but if you are then please appreciate that 99% of us petrolheads are just normal, law-abiding people who like cars.

If you're someone who's tempted to belt down the A543 at 100mph then sell the Honda S2000 and get something you'll enjoy at normal speeds.

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Wales has some wonderful roads - but not everyone who enjoys them is out to break the law

Special edition of smallest off-roader has gone on sale

A NEW special edition spin on one of the smallest off-roaders you can buy has just gone on sale. The Adventure version of Suzuki's Jimny is based on the existing SZ4 model but adds 15-inch alloy wheels, synthetic leather seats and air conditioning among other niceties. It costs £14,949 and is being capped at just 200 cars.

March Madness used car clearance!

Due to a high number of new '16' plate Vauxhall models sold we now need to clear the decks of all our part exchange models. **Come and make us a offer on over 200 cars!**

£1000 MINIMUM FOR YOUR PART EXCHANGE
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£13,995

14/14 FORD MONDEO 2000 TITANIUM X BUSINESS AUTO TDCi White Pearl 34000 miles

£14,995

2014 FORD FOCUS 1600 ZETEC TDCi Race Red 24000

£10,249

2014 FORD FOCUS 1000 ZETEC TURBO 100PS Moondust Silver 40000

£9,495

2009 FORD FIESTA 1600 ZETEC S 120PS Vision 38000

£6,795

FORD KA

2013 FORD KA 1200 TITANIUM, Midnight, 11,700 miles.....**£6,995**
2012 FORD KA 1200 STUDIO, Flame Red, 50,000 miles.....**£4,495**
2013 FORD KA 1200 STUDIO +, Flame Red, 28,000 miles.....**£5,495**

FORD B-MAX

2013 FORD B-MAX 1600 ZETEC AUTO, Burnished Glow, 11,000 miles.....**£8,495**

FORD C-MAX

2014 FORD C-MAX 1600 TITANIUM X TDCi, Moondust Silver, 11,300 miles.....**£14,495**
2012 FORD C-MAX 1600 ZETEC TDCi, Moondust Silver, 42,000 miles.....**£8,995**
2014 FORD C-MAX 1600 GRAND ZETEC TDCi 115ps, Deep Impact, 21,000 miles.....**£11,495**

FORD FIESTA

2013 FORD FIESTA 1000 ZETEC S 3 Door 125ps, Hot Mustard, 6,000 miles.....**£9,995**
2014 FORD FIESTA 1000 TITANIUM 5 Door 100ps, Race Red, 15,300 miles.....**£9,995**
2014 FORD FIESTA 1600 ZETEC 5 Door AUTO, Candy Blue, 14,700 miles.....**£9,795**
2011 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 5 Door 82ps, Moondust Silver, 52,000 miles.....**£5,495**
2009 FORD FIESTA 1600 ZETEC S 120ps, Vision, 38,000 miles.....**£6,795**
2013 FORD FIESTA 1600 ZETEC AUTO 5 Door, Panther Black, 3,600 miles.....**£9,495**
2014 FORD FIESTA 1000 TITANIUM 5 Door 80ps, Panther Black, 25,700 miles.....**£9,495**
2013 FORD FIESTA 1000 TITANIUM 100ps 5 Door, Race Red, 24,000 miles.....**£8,995**
2011 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 5 Door 82ps, Panther Black, 62,000 miles.....**£5,295**
2016 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 3 Door 82ps, Frozen White, 100 miles.....**£11,995**
2015 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 3 Door 82ps, Frozen White, 10,000 miles.....**£8,495**
2009 FORD FIESTA 1600 ZETEC S 125ps, Frozen White, 72,000 miles.....**£5,995**
2013 FORD FIESTA 1000 ZETEC 100ps 5 Door, Panther Black, 42,000 miles.....**£8,495**
2013 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 82ps 5 Door, Race Red, 23,900 miles.....**£7,995**
2013 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 82ps 3 Door, Race Red, 15,200 miles.....**£7,495**
2011 FORD FIESTA 1250 EDGE 3 Door 60ps, Frozen White, 47,000 miles.....**£5,495**
2007 FORD FIESTA 1600 GHIA TDCi 5 Door, Silver, 63,300 miles.....**£3,995**
2014 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 3 Door 82ps, Race Red, 16,800 miles.....**£7,695**

FORD FOCUS

2015 FORD FOCUS 1000 ZETEC TURBO 100ps, Frozen White, 16,000 miles.....**£11,995**
2014 FORD FOCUS 1600 TITANIUM NAV AUTO, Frozen White, 5,000 miles.....**£12,995**
2013 FORD FOCUS 1000 ZETEC TURBO 100ps, Frozen White, 17,500 miles.....**£9,495**
2014 FORD FOCUS 1600 ZETEC TDCi, Race Red, 22,000 miles.....**£9,495**
2014 FORD FOCUS 1000 ZETEC TURBO 100ps, Race Red, 19,000 miles.....**£9,495**
2014 FORD FOCUS 1600 ZETEC TDCi, Race Red, 24,000 miles.....**£10,249**
2014 FORD FOCUS 1000 ZETEC TURBO 100ps, Moondust Silver, 40,000 miles.....**£9,495**
2016 FORD FOCUS 1000 ZETEC S 125ps, Race Red, 100 miles.....**£16,995**
2015 FORD FOCUS 1500 ESTATE TITANIUM X TDCi, Deep Impact, 11,100 miles.....**£14,495**
2013 FORD FOCUS 1600 ZETEC S TDCi 5 Door, Panther Black, 36,700 miles.....**£10,495**
2013 FORD FOCUS 1000 TITANIUM X TURBO 125ps, Race Red, 18,000 miles.....**£10,495**
2015 FORD FOCUS 1500 TITANIUM TDCi ESTATE, Race Red, 500 miles.....**£15,995**

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2014 FORD MONDEO 2000 TITANIUM X BUSINESS AUTO TDCi, White Pearl, 34,000 miles.....**£14,995**
2012 FORD MONDEO 1600 TITANIUM TURBO, Lunar Sky, 19,000 miles.....**£8,995**
2013 FORD MONDEO 2000 TITANIUM X BUSNINESS TDCi ESTATE, Frozen White, 57,000 miles.....**£11,995**
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FORD GALAXY

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DUE IN

2015 FORD FOCUS 1000 TITANIUM X TURBO 100ps, Deep Impact, 9,000 miles.....**£15,495**
2013 FORD FIESTA 1500 TITANIUM TDCi 5 Door, Nautical Blue, 30,000 miles.....**£8,995**
2014 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 5 Door, Race Red, 7,500 miles.....**£8,495**
2015 FORD S-MAX 2000 TITANIUM TDCi 140ps, Moondust , 14,000 miles.....**£17,995**
2014 FORD S-MAX 2000 TITANIUM TDCi 140ps, Panther Black, 9,000 miles.....**£18,495**
2014 FORD ECOSPORT 1500 TITANIUM X-PACK TDCi, Panther Black, 21,000 miles..**£995**
2012 FORD FOCUS 1600 TITANIUM TDCi, Midnight Sky, 36,000 miles.....**£8,995**
2013 FORD FIESTA 1250 ZETEC 5 Door, Copper Pulse, 27,000 miles.....**£7,995**
2015 FORD ECOSPORT 1500 ZETEC, Moondust , 2,000 miles.....**£12,995**

62 FORD C-MAX 1600 ZETEC TDCi Moondust Silver, 42000 miles

£8,995

2013 FORD B-MAX 1600 ZETEC AUTO Burnished Glow, 11000 miles

£8,495

13 FORD FIESTA 1000 ZETEC S 3 Door, 125ps, Hot Mustard, 6000 miles

£9,995

2014 FORD FIESTA 1000 Titanium, 5 Door, 80ps, Panther Black, 25700 miles

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2014 FORD C-MAX 1600 GRAND ZETEC TDCi 115ps Deep Impact, 21000 miles

£11,495

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12 TRANSIT 280 SWB M/Roof, 44,500 miles, 100Psi, 6 Spd.....from £7,995+VAT
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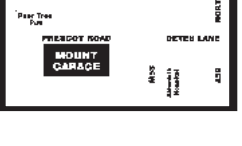

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Jones double gives Linnets home victory

Burscough 2
Witton Albion 0

A DOUBLE from striker Will Jones gave the Linnets all three points to keep them in the play off positions.

Burscough took the lead on 72 minutes when the forward opened the scoring before he added to his tally four minutes later to make it 2-0.

It means the Linnets remain in fifth place but will drop down to sixth if Clitheroe win their game in hand. It is set-up to be an exciting end to the season with Burscough having 11 gamesremaining to fight for a play-off place in the hope of gaining promotion for next season.

Burscough were due to face Bamber Bridge last night (Tuesday) before they travel to Spennymoor Town this Saturday.

Spennymoor, currently placed second in the table, will prove to be tough opposition, with Burscough losing 2-0 at home to the side earlier on this season.

Hazeldine bags hat-trick

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Skelmersdale United 3
Salford City 1

STRIKER Max Hazeldine scored a hat-trick to cause an upset as Skelmersdale beat high-flying Salford City.

The teenager gave the away side a lesson in finishing to make it 11 goals in 14 appearances since signing on loan from Accrington Stanley.

The first goal was made by Paul Woolcott who played an early ball over the Salford defence and left a defender isolated one on one with Hazeldine.

The striker looked up and cleverly chipped the ball from around 18 yards over a back-pedalling goalkeeper and inside the far post to give Skelmersdale the lead.

Salford equalised from the spot when former Premier League striker Danny Webber fired the penalty kick low to Martin Fearon's right-hand side.

On 42 minutes Skelmersdale struck again. Hazeldine, Louis Corrigan and Mike Brewster combined well on the left, Brewster saw his effort blocked and the ball ran out to Hazeldine about 15 yards from goal, he smashed the ball wide of the City keeper and into the net to give Skem the half-time advantage.

Two minutes after the restart a loose pass across the Skelmersdale defence was almost very costly. The ball was intercepted by Clarke; his shot looked goalbound until Fearon superbly got a finger-tip to the ball and diverted it onto the crossbar. It proved to be the one bit of luck all afternoon, but significantly it was caused by a Skelmersdale error rather than Salford's approach play.

Hazeldine slots in his third goal. Picture by Stuart Driscoll.

Salford were now having more of the possession but were not creating a great deal in the way of danger, most efforts were from distance, the best a shot from Steve O'Halloran that fizzed wide of the target.

On 71 minutes Skelmersdale gave themselves the breathing space they required. Deep in the Skem half Kenny Strickland skilfully brought the ball down and beat his opponent at the same time, he then played a 35 yard through ball to Hazeldine, again putting him one on one with Salford defender Chris Lynch. Hazeldine saw off the defenders challenge and now bearing down on goal, slotted the ball low under Jay Lynch and into the net behind him, bringing about an eleven man Skelmersdale celebration by the clubhouse corner flag.

However, instead of Salford threatening it was Skelmersdale who almost made it four.

A Hazeldine cross finding Dylan Vassallo, the substitutes shot brought an acrobatic save from Jay Lynch, before the rebound was fired wide.

Salford increased the pressure, but again generated not much except a number of corners that were dealt with fairly comfortably, Chris Lynch had a header grasped by Fearon and Howson missed the target with the better attempts.

It was Skelmersdale's eighth win in Salford's last nine visits to Skem.

Lawson wants to build on Salford win

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE United manager Tommy Lawson will be looking forward to the next couple of weeks, as after Saturday's fine performance against Salford City his side take on a run of four games that should on paper yield a few points.

Hesaid: "It was an important win on Saturday and one that left me very pleased, especially for the supporters who back the lads through thick and thin.

"I told the lads after the Stamford I was going to bring in a couple of new faces to freshen things up and make it a bit more competitive for places in the team.

"Based on the evidence from Saturday it worked well. I want us to go now and finish the season strongly."

The run starts with a trip to Hyde United on Saturday, then a home game against Whitby Town on Tuesday, March 22.

Skelmersdale have already beaten Hyde twice this season 2-1 at Stormy Corner and away at the very start of their FA Trophy run.

Easter weekend begins with a visit to Matlock Town on Easter Saturday then a home game against FA Trophy semi-finalists Nantwich Town on Easter Monday.

Skelmersdale have beaten Matlock this season, plus although they lost on Boxing Day, they performed well at Nantwich.

It will certainly be a close game at Ewen Fields on Saturday. Skelmersdale are four points above the men from the east of Manchester with both teams having played 36 matches.

The three meeting this season opened with a 3-3 draw at Stormy Corner that was memorable for a Tony Rendell rocket that set up a replay.

"The replay was actually played twice as the first attempt was abandoned after 20 minutes because of fog.

However, with a makeshift side due to traffic problems around Manchester, Skelmersdale won 1-0, with again Rendell having an outstanding game.

"In the league meeting at Skem in February a brace from Max Hazeldine were enough to give Skem a 2-1 win. So it is expected to be tight on Saturday.

Tuesday sees Skelmersdale's first encounter with Whitby, the North Yorkshiremen make the long trip in need of points as they sit in 21st place, ten points behind Skelmersdale, so be it with a game in hand.

"They will have all to play for, making it a difficult game for the 7.45 kick off.

Remyca kicked out of cup

LITHERLAND Remyca have been kicked out of the Reusch First Division Cup for fielding an illegible player.

They had reached the semi-final after beating Irlam 3-2 in the previous round – but officials from the North West Counties League were made aware of the breach in rules. In a bizarre twist, Irlam also fielded an illegible player in the game so they have also been removed from the competition.

A league statement says: "In the quarter final tie between Litherland Remyca and Irlam, Litherland Remyca won 3-2 and progressed to the semi-final, where they were drawn at home to Hanley Town.

Remyca travel to Irlam on Saturday.

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion

16 March 2016 Vol 23 • Issue 11 www.champnews.com

This week's Champion is inside ...

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